

Chapter 3

Citywide Demographics

Introduction

Houston's demographics are the statistics that, in part, describe the characteristics of the people who make Houston their home. Key demographic characteristics are called indicators. This chapter examines the following key demographic indicators: race/ethnicity, age, educational level, income and employment status on a City-Wide basis. By looking at the changes in these indicators over the last 10 years, we are able to gain a better understanding of where and what kind of growth (in terms of population) has taken place in Houston. These changes also indicate possible trends for the future and the nature of those trends.

To get a picture of what has happened in the City as a whole, we have examined these changes on a citywide level based on dividing the City into 15 Study Areas. A more in-depth look resulted from looking at this data at the Super Neighborhood level. The City's 88 Super Neighborhoods form the 15 Study Areas. See Appendix B on page 6-2 for a listing of Super Neighborhoods by Study Area.

Population Growth: 1990 to 2000

In 2000, the population in the City of Houston was 1,953,631 persons. This represents an increase of nearly 20% since 1990. Most of this growth represents an actual increase in population within the City. However, part of this growth can be attributed to annexation of neighborhoods in the far northeast and on the west. This annexation accounted for 5.2% of the total population growth.

The City's population growth was unevenly distributed (see map); some areas captured significant amounts of the growth in population, while others either lost population or remained basically the same. These changes (or lack of changes) had varied impacts on each area's ethnic and economic makeup.

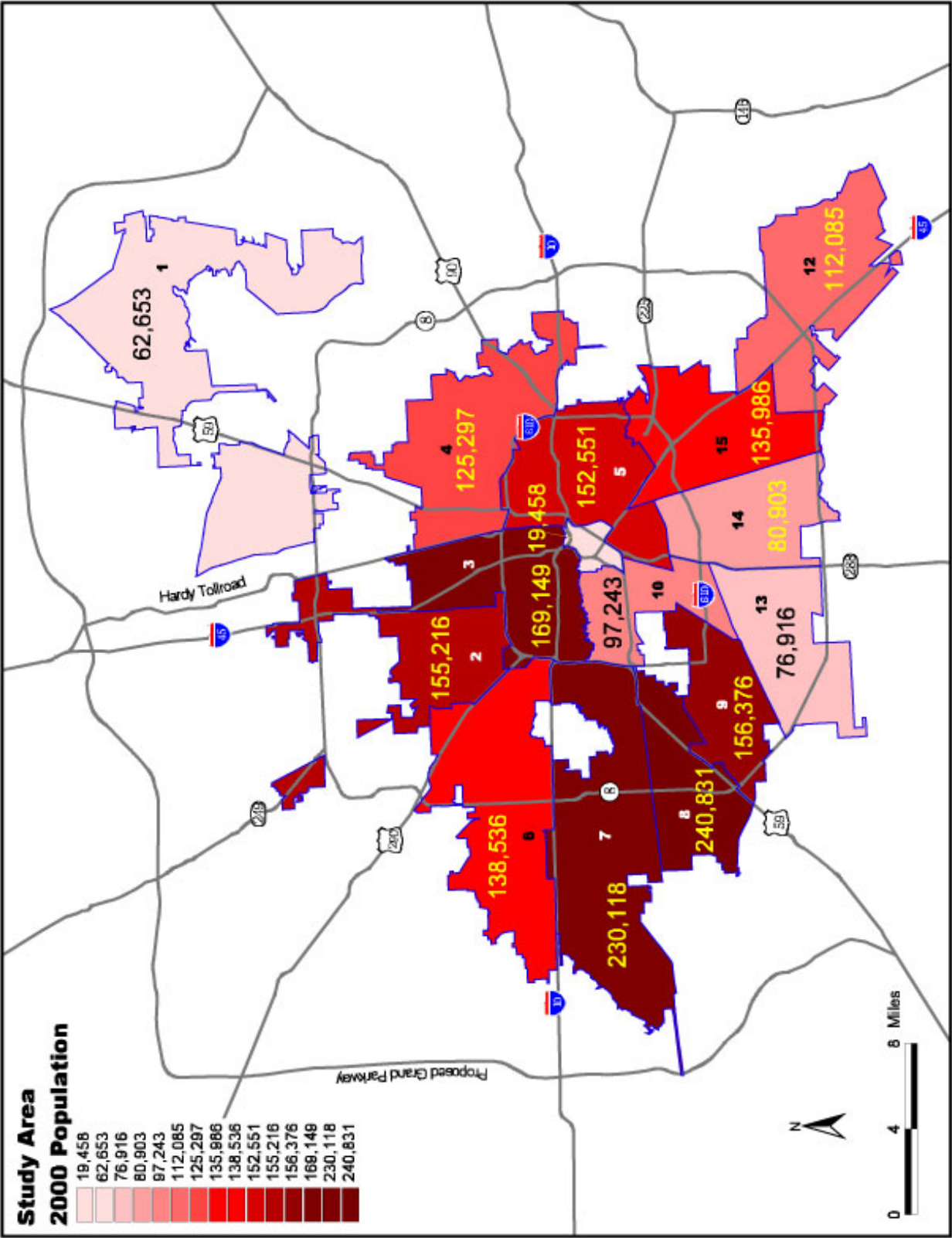
Citywide, more than 75% of the City experienced moderate to strong population growth; most along the edge of the City. Almost 25% of the City experienced declining populations, generally in the eastern half of the City.

Super Neighborhoods with increasing population

Citywide, more than 3/4 of the Super Neighborhoods experienced increases in population. Super Neighborhoods outside Loop 610 accommodated almost 90% of the total population growth.

- *Almost half of the total City population growth occurred in an arc between I-10 and Hwy 288, outside Loop 610, which includes Study Areas 7, 9, 13.*
- *The remainder was accommodated by neighborhoods in the southeast including Study Area 12, the far northeast including Study Area 1, and the northern section of the City in Study Area.*
- *75% of the City experienced moderate to strong population growth; most along the edge of the City. Almost 25% of the City experienced declining populations, generally in the eastern half of the City.*

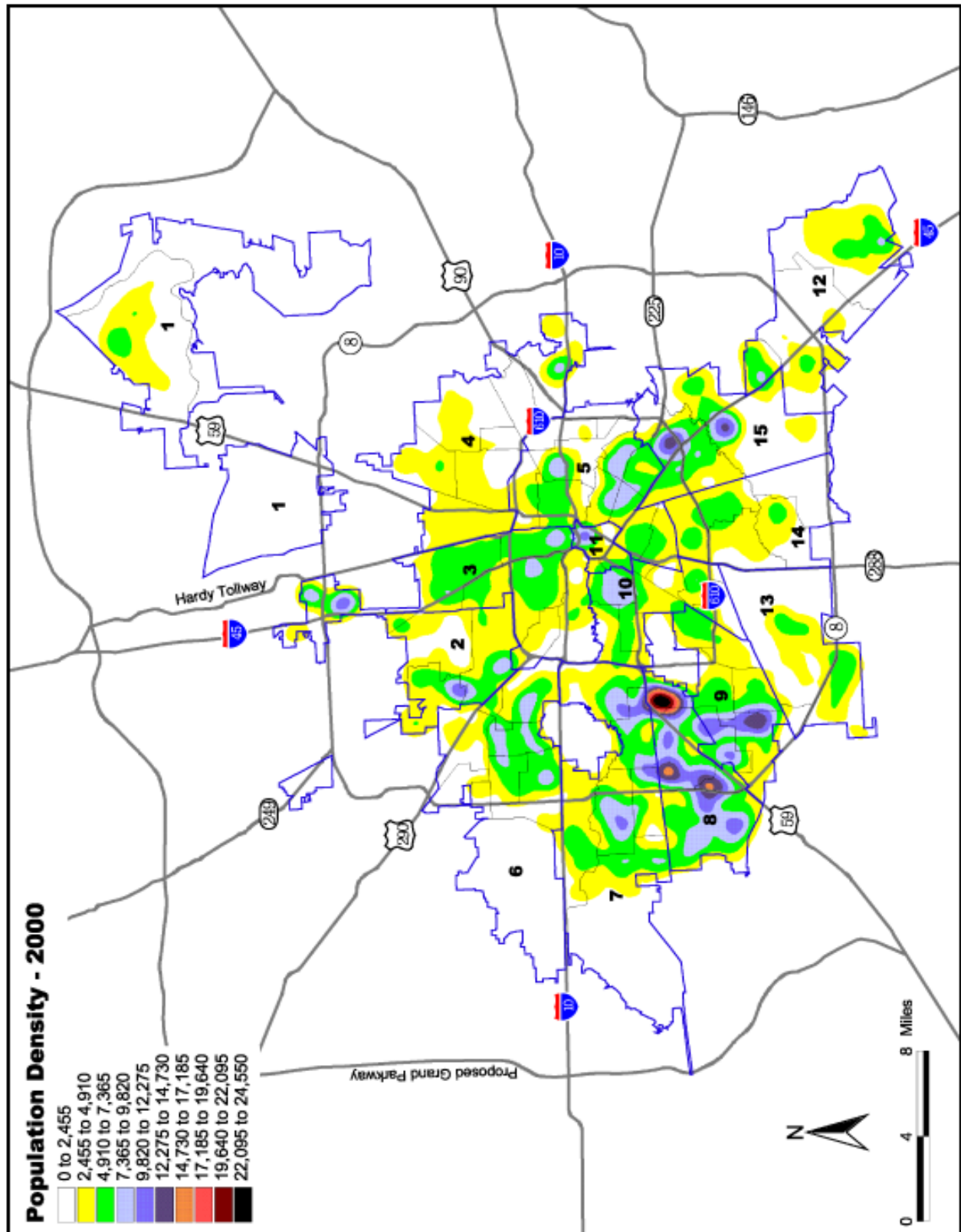
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.1.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

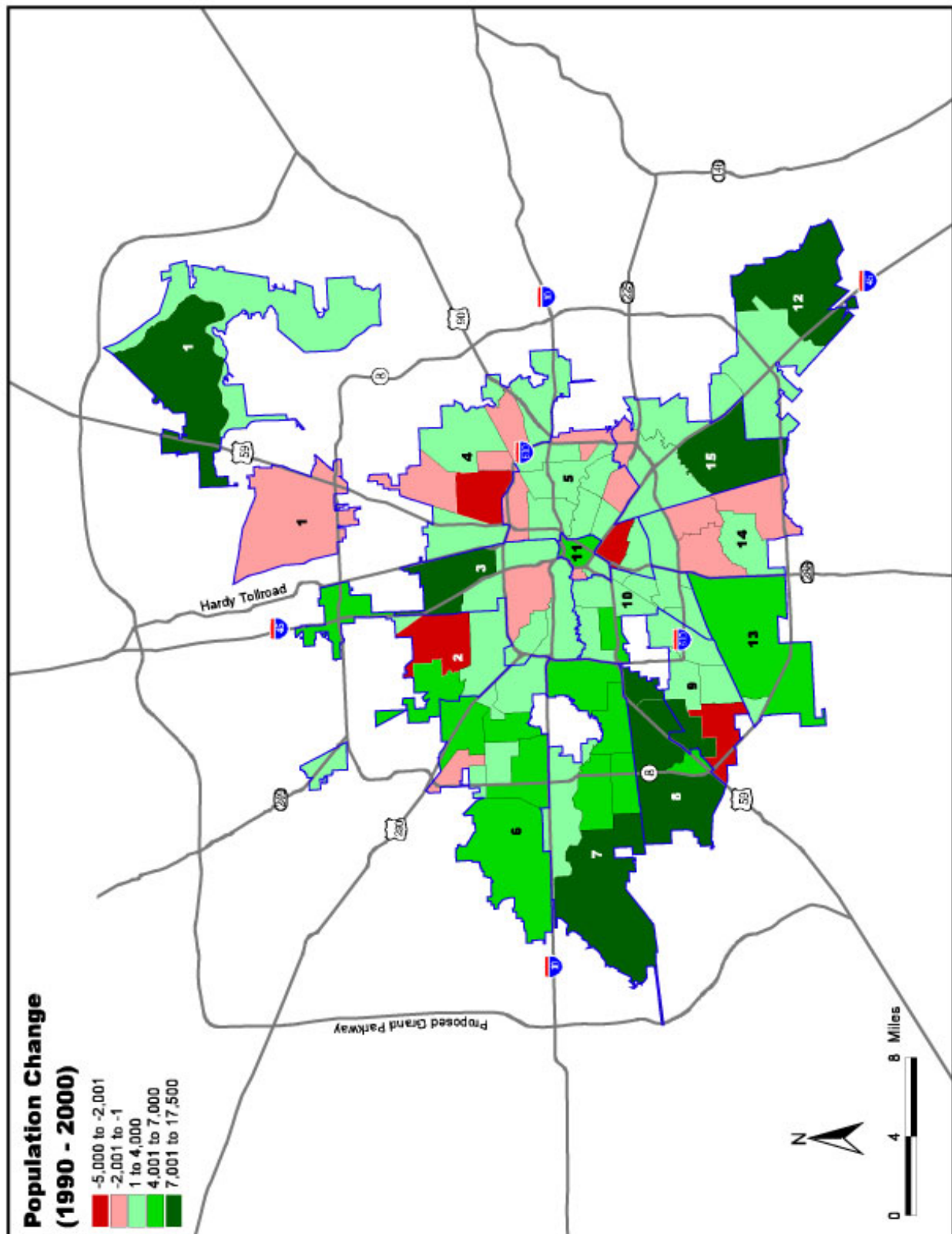
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.2.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

City-wide Demographics



Map 3.3.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

City-wide Demographics

Super Neighborhoods with declining population

Citywide, 19 of 88 Super Neighborhoods experienced declines in population.

- More than half of this decline in population occurred in Super Neighborhoods north of downtown, especially in Study Area 4.
- The remainder occurred in Super Neighborhoods south and east of Downtown, including Study Areas 5 and 14.

Table 3.1.
Population Increase/Decrease by Study Areas: 1990 to 2000

Rate of Change	Study Areas	Percent Change	Numerical Change	Areas with Highest Concentration
Very High	Study Area 11	48.5%	6,361	Midtown & Fourth Ward
High	Study Area 8	28.5%	52,774	Southwest: north of Bissonet and Beltway 8
	Study Area 6	21.9%	24,846	West: Tanner and Gessner roads
	Study Area 1	20.5%	10,695	Kingwood: Kingwood Rd and Mills Branch
	Study Area 15	20.0%	22,689	South of Hobby Airport and Fuqua
Medium	Study Area 7	19.2%	37,089	West: Alief Clodine and Dairy Ashford
	Study Area 9	17.8%	24,694	Southwest: W. Airport, Riceville and S.Gessner
	Study Area 13	17.5%	11,428	Fort Bend: Mchard and Hiram Clark
	Study Area 12	15.9%	15,441	South of Ellington Field in Clear Lake
	Study Area 10	12.3%	10,690	Inner Loop: south of Buffalo Bayou and east of Shepherd
	Study Area 2	11.0%	15,186	North: south of W. Gulf Bank and T.C. Jester
Low	Study Area 3	6.4%	10,198	Inner Loop: West of Shepherd and north of Buffalo Bayou
	Study Area 4	4.9%	5,806	East: at C.E King Pkway and Highway 90
Very Low	Study Area 5	1.1%	1,100	East: south of Quitman, between Hirsch and Lockwood Rds
Negative	Study Area 14	-1.2%	-1,003	South: south of E. Orem and east of Cullen Blvd

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

Compiled by CITY OF HOUSTON, Planning and Development Dept.

Table 3.2.
Population Increase/Decrease by Super Neighborhoods: 1990 to 2000

Rate of Change	Range of Change	Super Neighborhoods*
Very High	More than 100%	9
High	50% to 75%	17, 61, 62
Medium High	25% to 49%	4,8,19,26,27,29,30,34,43,69,74,78,85,87
Medium	16% to 24%	1,2,20,36,37,39,41,45,75,81
Low	5% to 15%	10,11,12,13,14,18,21,23,25,32,35,38,40,44
		46,49,56,58,64,70,73,79,80,84,86
Very Low	Less than 5%	5,7,16,22,24,31,33,51,54,55,63,66,68,76
		82,83
Decline	Negative	3,6,15,28,42,47,48,50,52,53,57,59,60,65, 67,71,72,77,88

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000 Compiled by CITY OF HOUSTON, Planning and Development Dept.

* Refer to Appendix for Super Neighborhood names

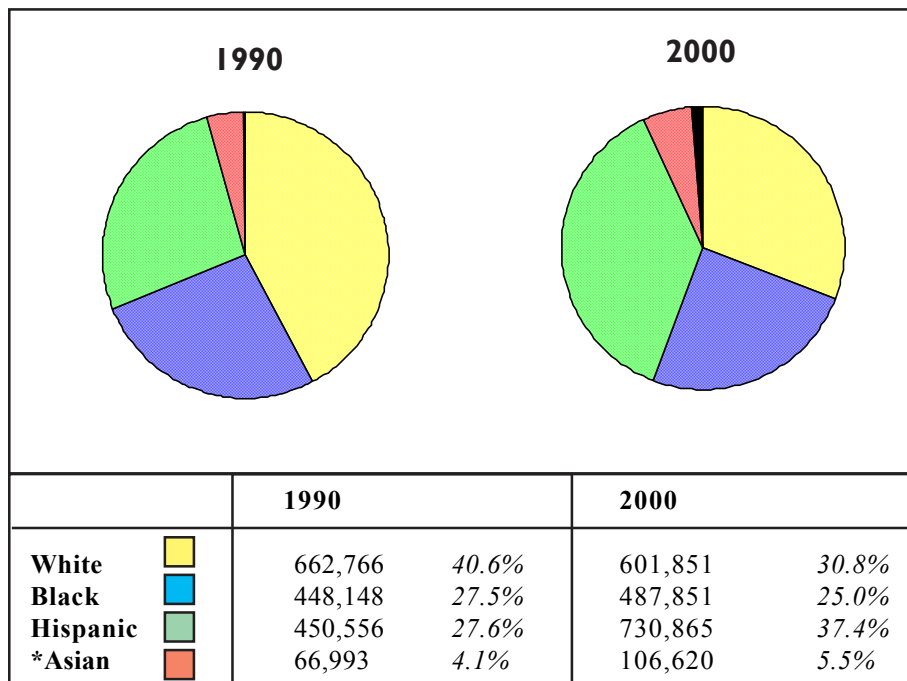
City-wide Demographics

Race and Ethnicity

Between 1990 and 2000, strong population growth reflected continued growth and change in the City's ethnic groups. Although the White population declined, Hispanics, Black and Asian populations increased. Hispanics almost doubled in number. As a result of these changes, the City's population in 2000 reflects a fairly even distribution among the three largest ethnic groups: Whites, Hispanics and Blacks. See Figure 3.1 below.

In 1990, whites, comprised a majority of the population, non-Hispanic whites were the largest ethnic group. In 2000, Hispanics are now the most numerous ethnic group at 37% of the City, surpassing Whites, Blacks and Asians. See also Appendix C for further detail of these statistics.

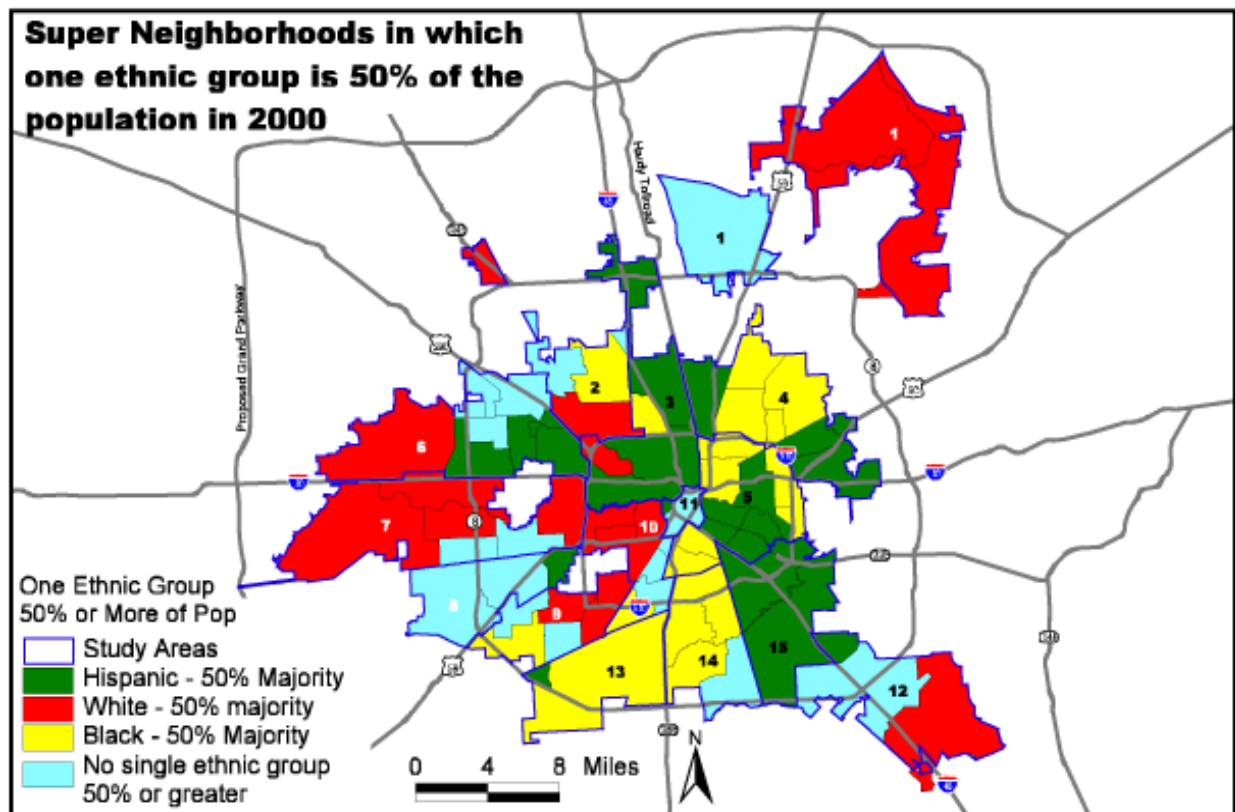
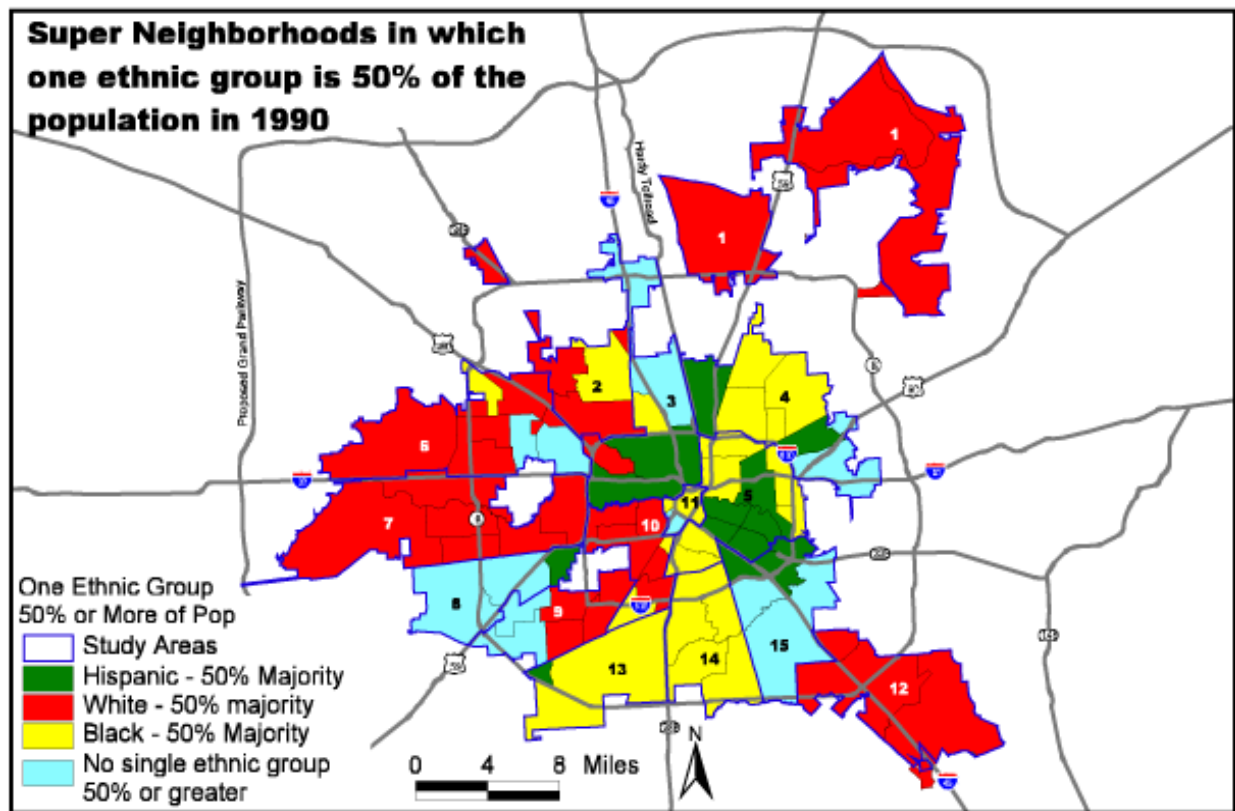
Figure 3.1.
Houston Population by Race/Ethnicity



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000

* Asian includes Native American, Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander

City-wide Demographics



Map 3.4. and Map 3.5.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

City-wide Demographics

Hispanic Population

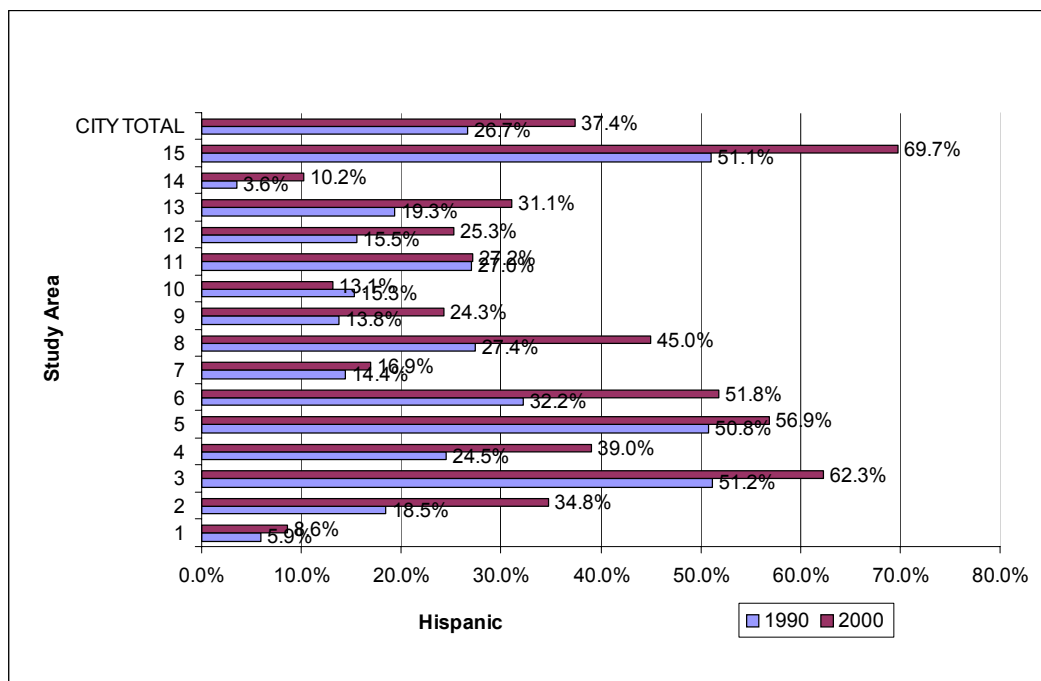
Between 1990 and 2000, the Citywide Hispanic population increased by 60%. Outside Loop 610, all Super Neighborhoods saw an increase in Hispanic population. Inside Loop 610, about 2/3rd of the Super Neighborhoods saw an increase in the Hispanic population, while the other 1/3rd saw a decrease.

In 2000, Hispanics were a majority in 1/3rd of the Super Neighborhoods, as compared to 1/5th in 1990. This trend toward becoming a majority is likely to continue, especially in Gulfton, Alief, and Sharpstown, which had the largest increases in Hispanic population in the City.

Increases in the Hispanic population were clustered in three areas outside Loop 610 in a number of Study Areas: 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13 and 15. Together, they account for more than 2/3rds of the citywide increase in Hispanic population:

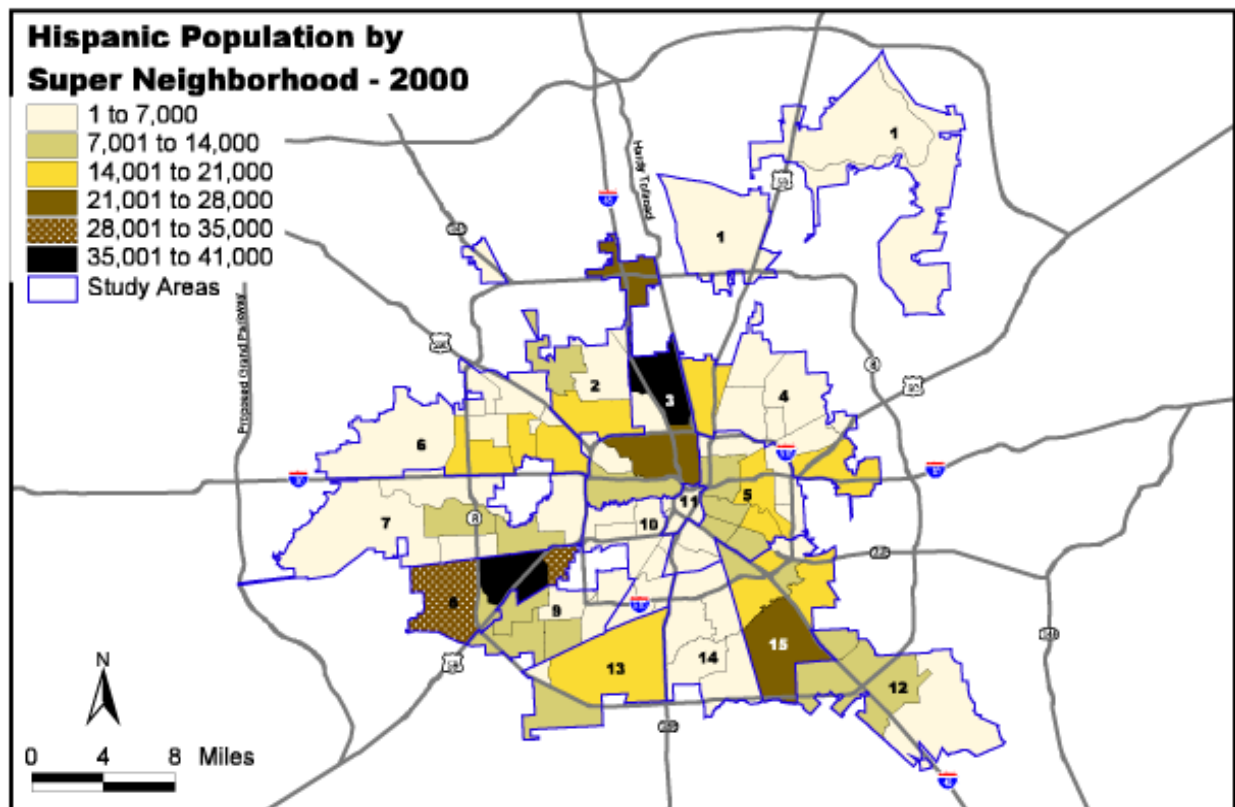
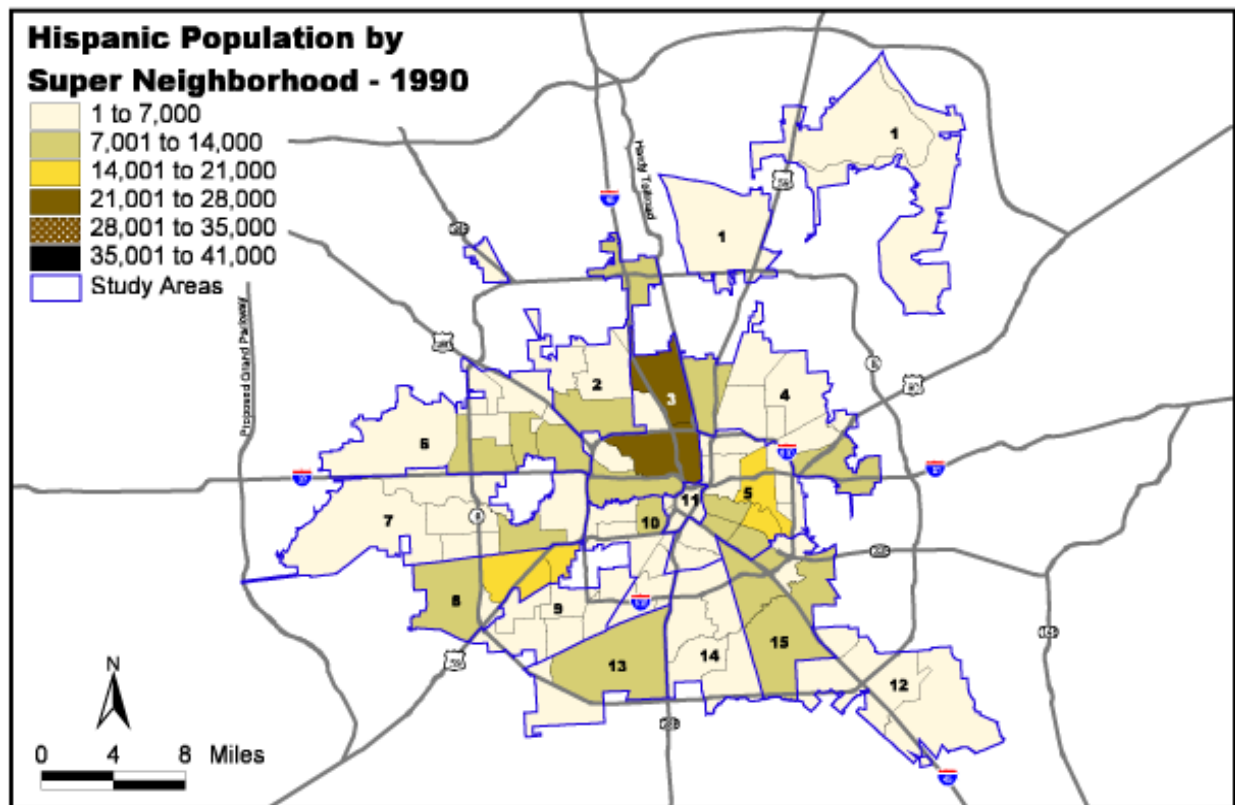
- North – Northwest (between I-10 and Eastex Freeway)
- South – Southwest (between Highway 288 and Westpark Road)
- Southeast (Between Mykawa Road and LaPorte Freeway)

Figure 3.2.
Census 1990 & 2000: Population by Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000

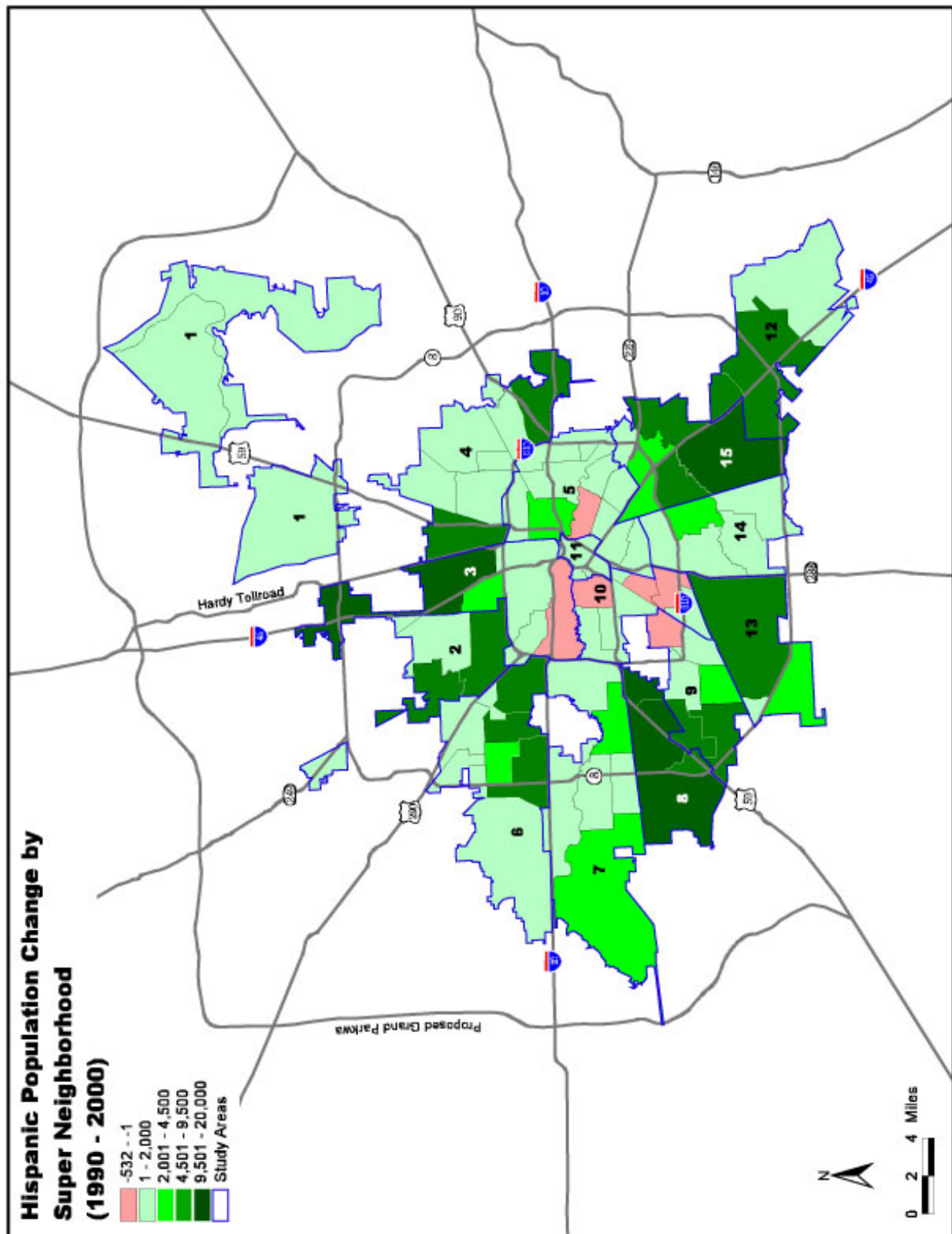
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.6. and Map 3.7.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

City-wide Demographics



City-wide Demographics

Black Population

By 2000 the Black population had grown 6% since 1990. It accounted for 25 % of the total population, down slightly from 1990. The Black population is concentrated in south-southwest and northeast areas of the City in Study Areas including 4, 8, 9, and 13.

Several Super Neighborhoods experienced substantial increases in Black population, others saw declines in Black population. The Majority of the increase in Black population was concentrated in two areas.

- Southwest accommodated 2/3rd of the increase.
- Greater Inwood accommodated 20% of the increase.

Of the areas that experienced decreases, two areas accounted for 3/4th of the decline. These areas are:

- North of Downtown
- Between 288 and I-45 along the South Loop

In 1990 as well as in 2000, in the northeast about 1/4th of the Super Neighborhoods were majority Black. These are in the north-east and southern portions of the City (Including Study Areas 4,15. Although the southwest portion of the City had significant influx of black population, they do not represent a majority in any of these Super Neighborhoods.

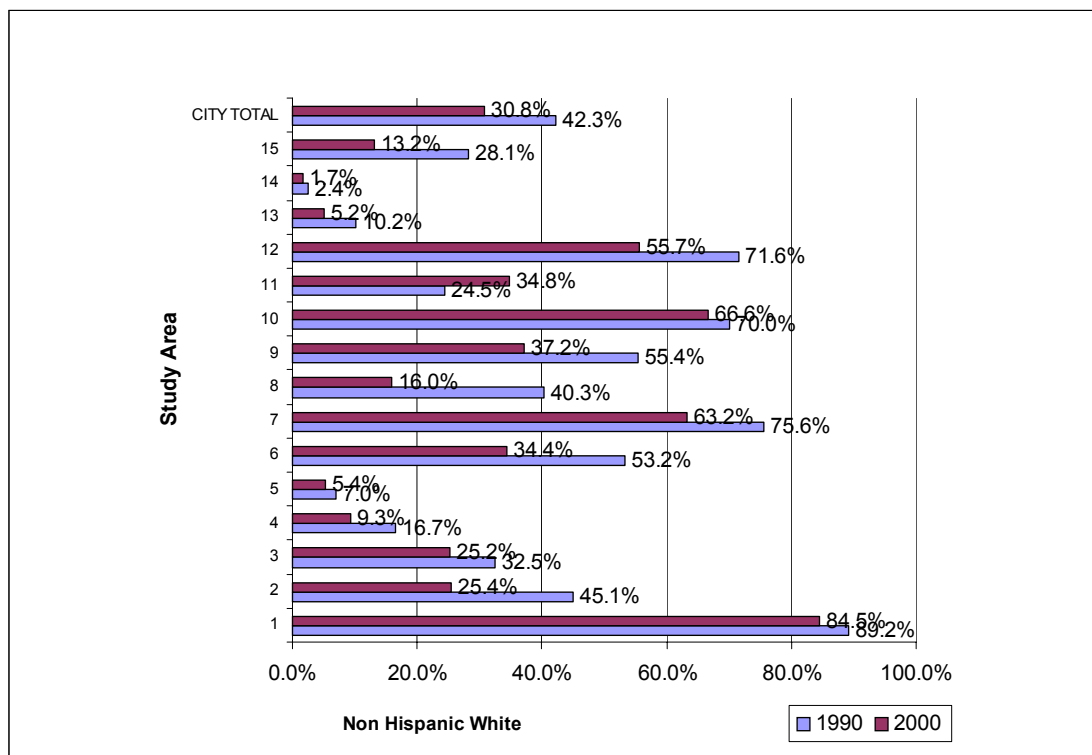
White Population

In 2000, Whites accounted for 31 % of the total population, down from 42% in 1990. White population was concentrated in the west outside Loop 610 (Study Areas 7, 11), and in the Kingwood and Clear Lake area. Downtown also saw increases in the White population.

Between 1990 and 2000, within the White ethnic group there was a 17% decrease. Outside Loop 610, most of the Super Neighborhoods saw a decrease in White population, while inside Loop 610; a little over half of the Super Neighborhoods saw a decrease in the White population. See also Figure 3.3 below.

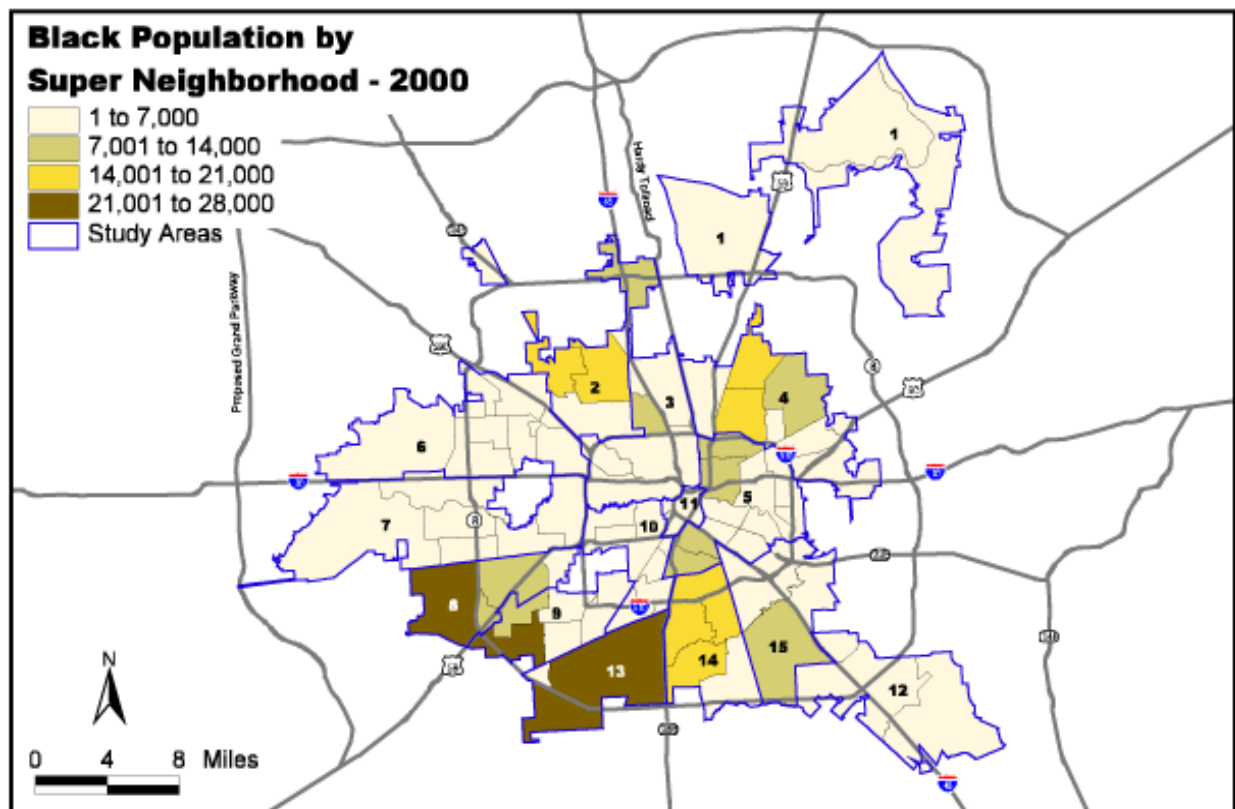
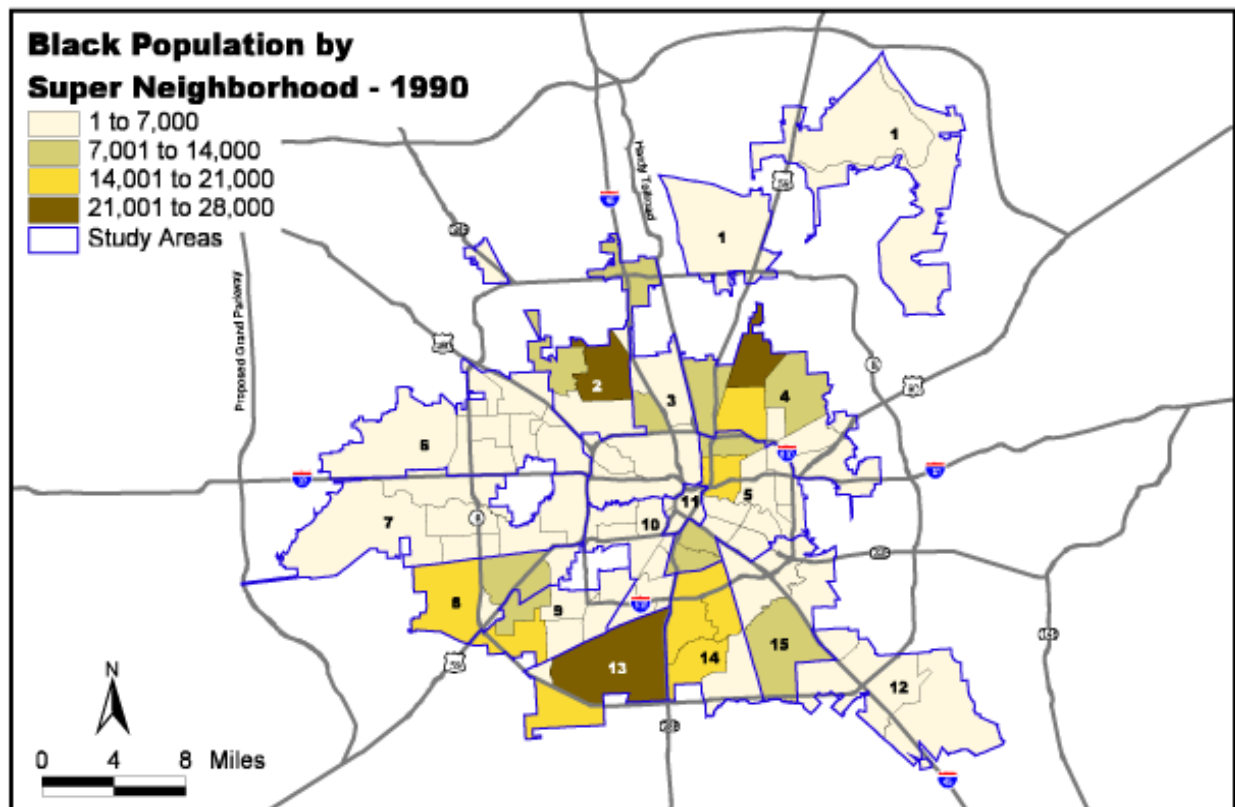
Figure 3.3.

Census 1990 & 2000: Population by Race/Ethnicity: Non-Hispanic White



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000

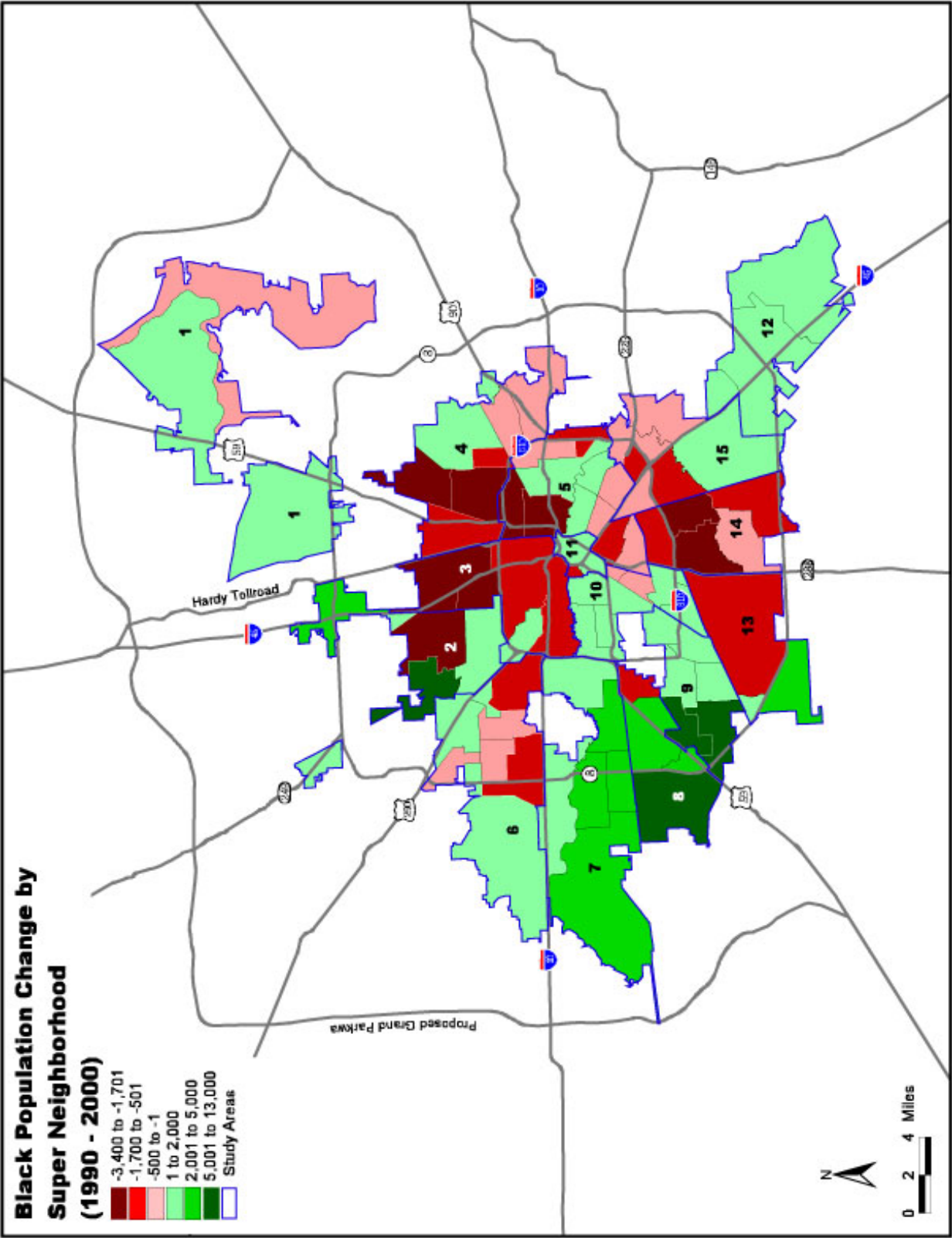
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.9. and Map 3.10.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

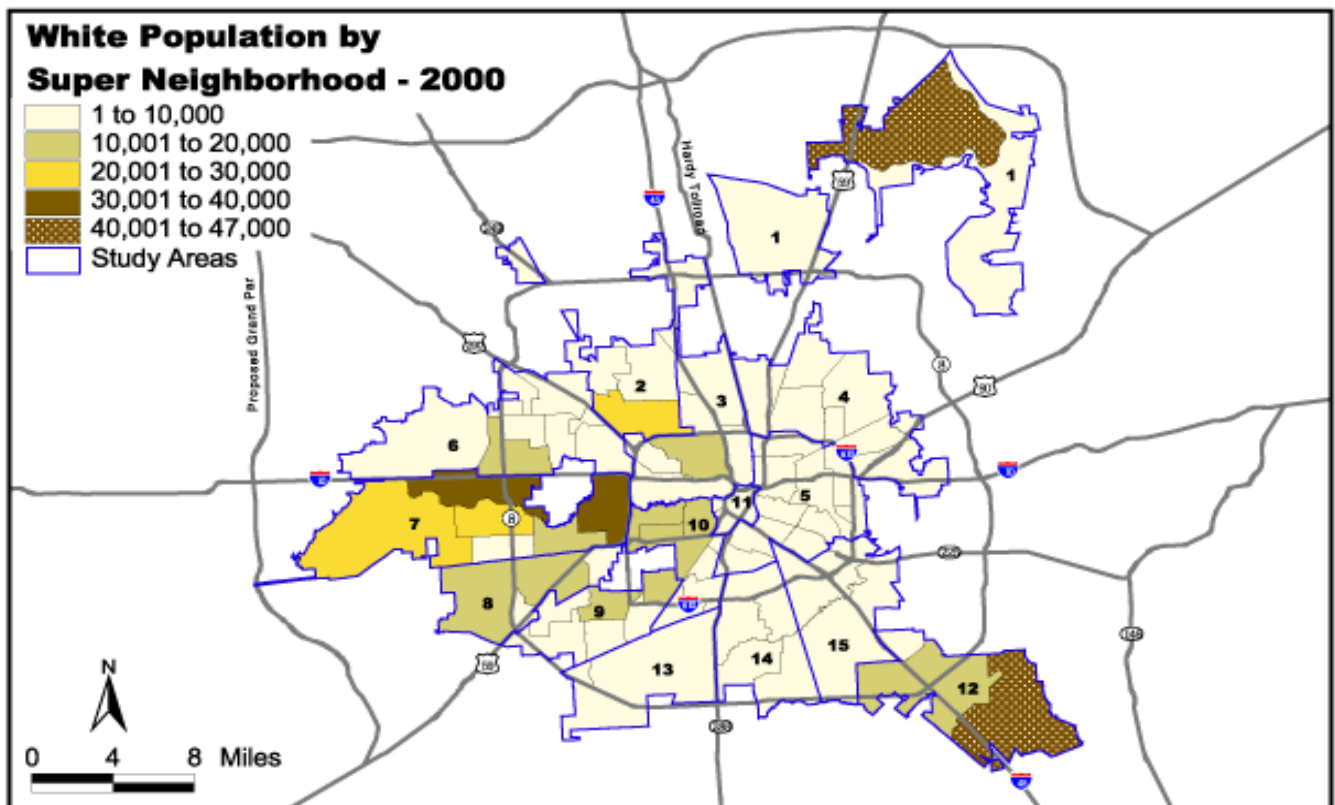
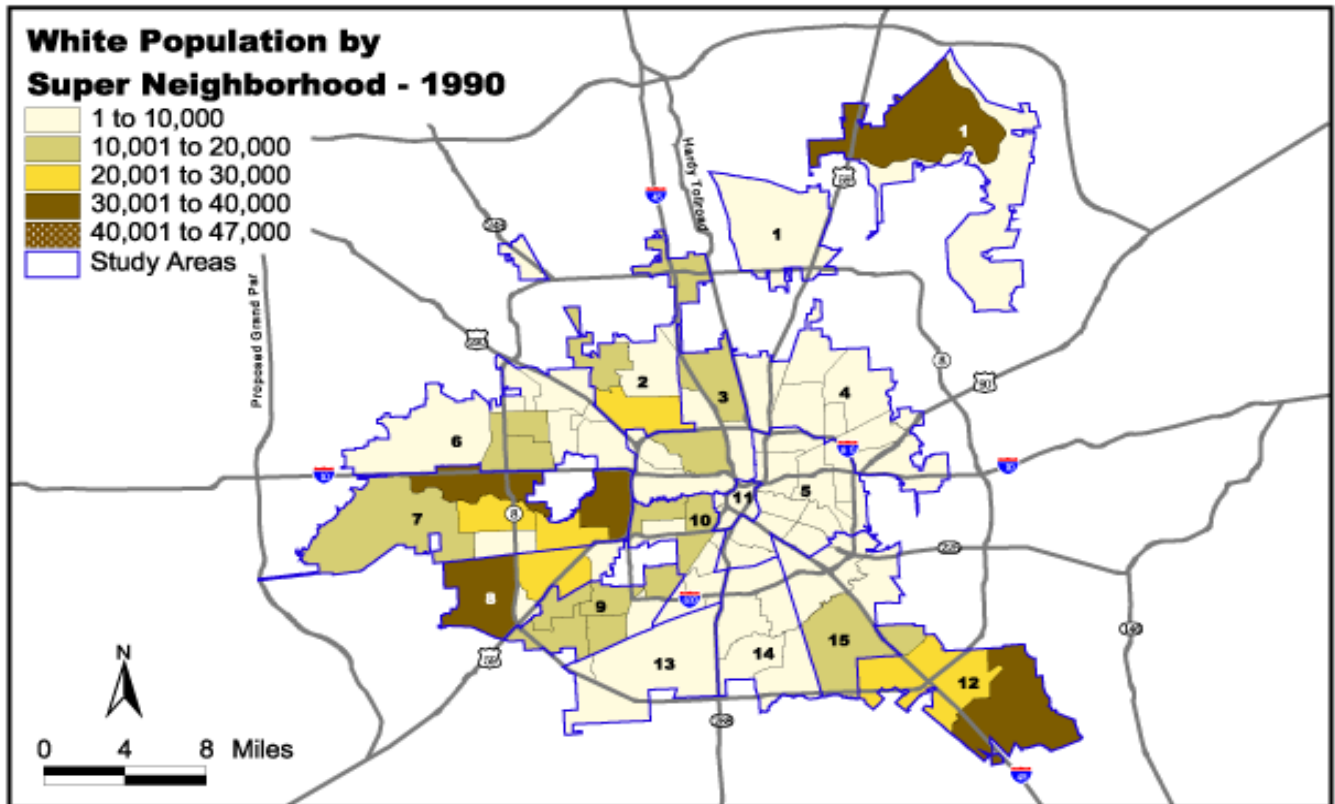
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.11.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

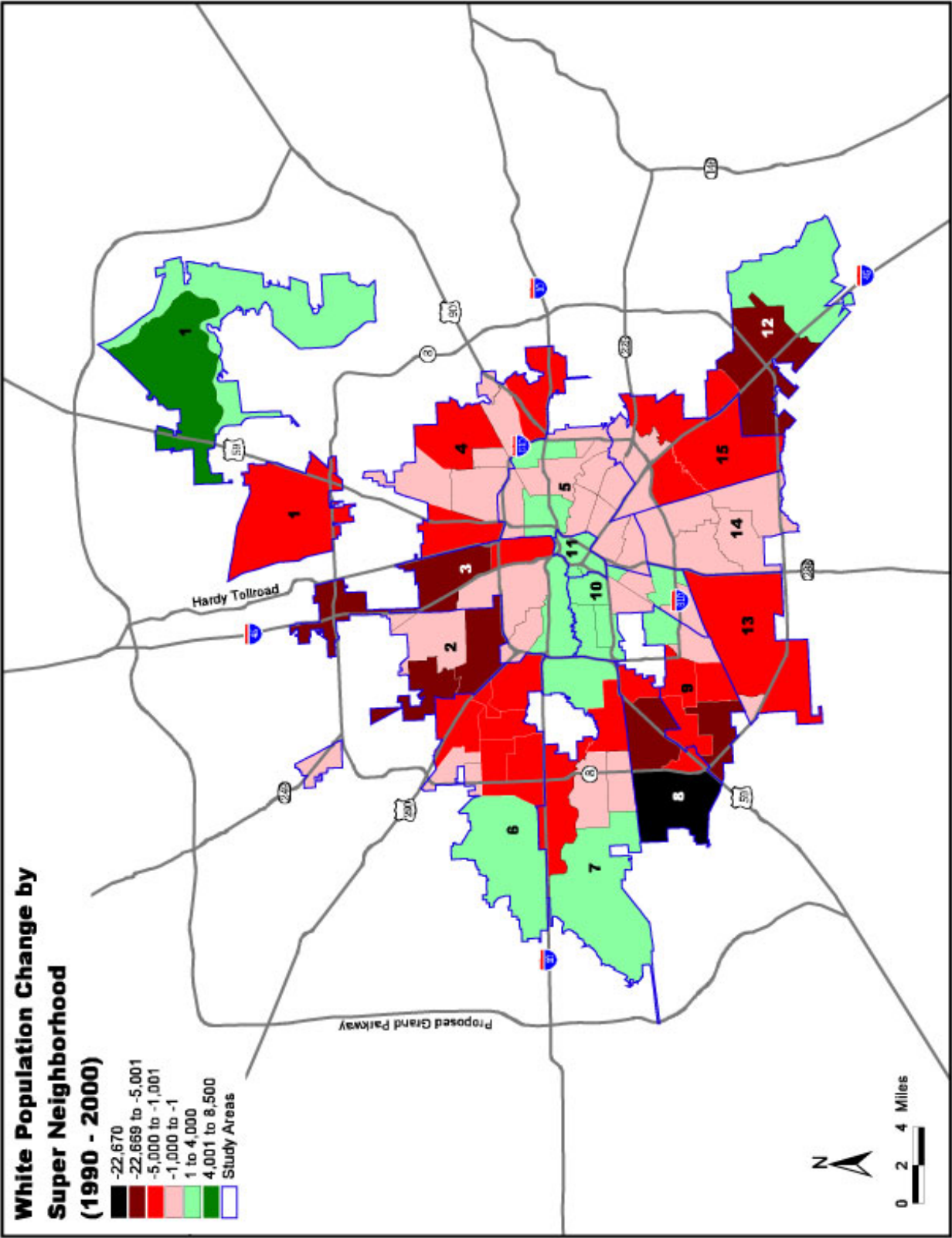
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.12. and Map 3.13.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

City-wide Demographics



Map 3.14.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

City-wide Demographics

In some areas the White population increased:

- *West- along I-10 outside Beltway 8.*
- *Northeast (Kingwood and Lake Houston)*
- *Central - Inside Loop 610*

In 2000, about 1/5th of the Super Neighborhoods were primarily White; in 1990 about 1/3rd.

Asian Population

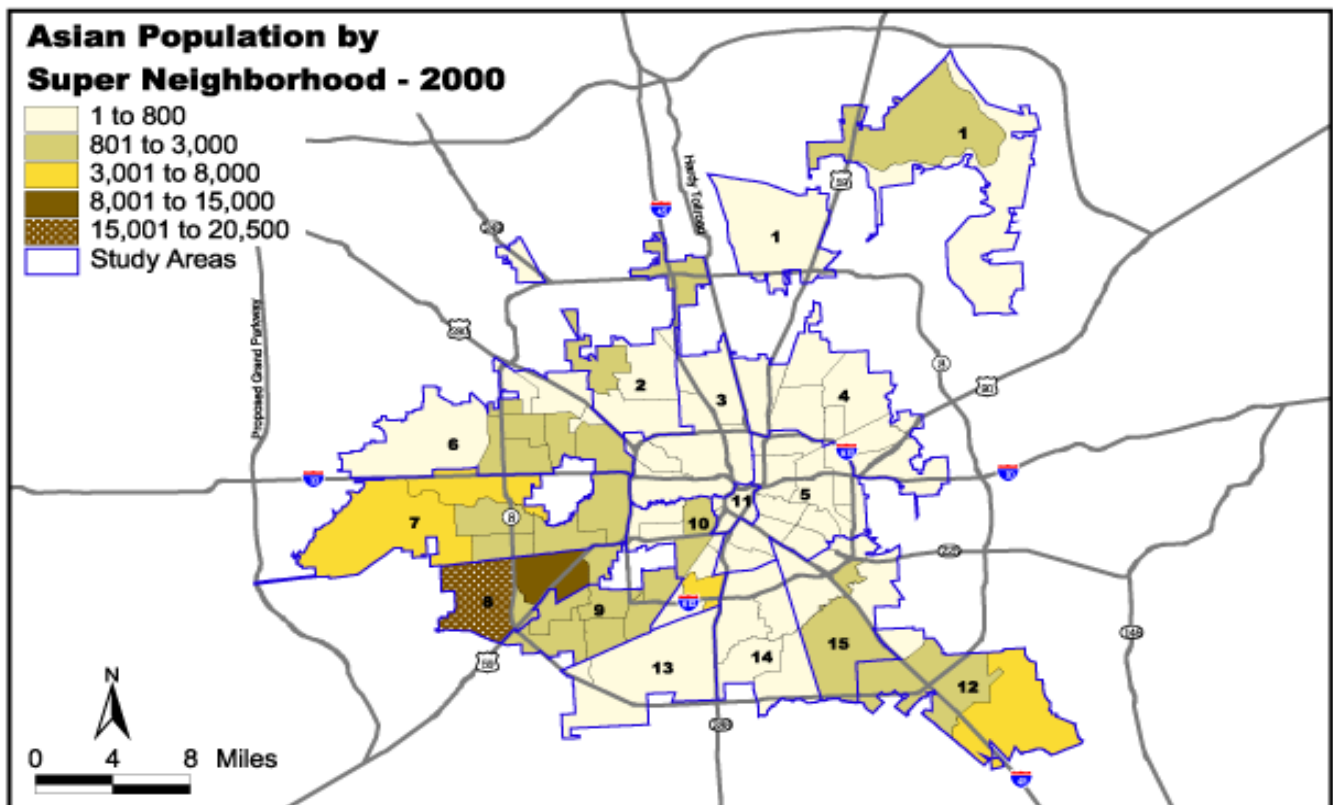
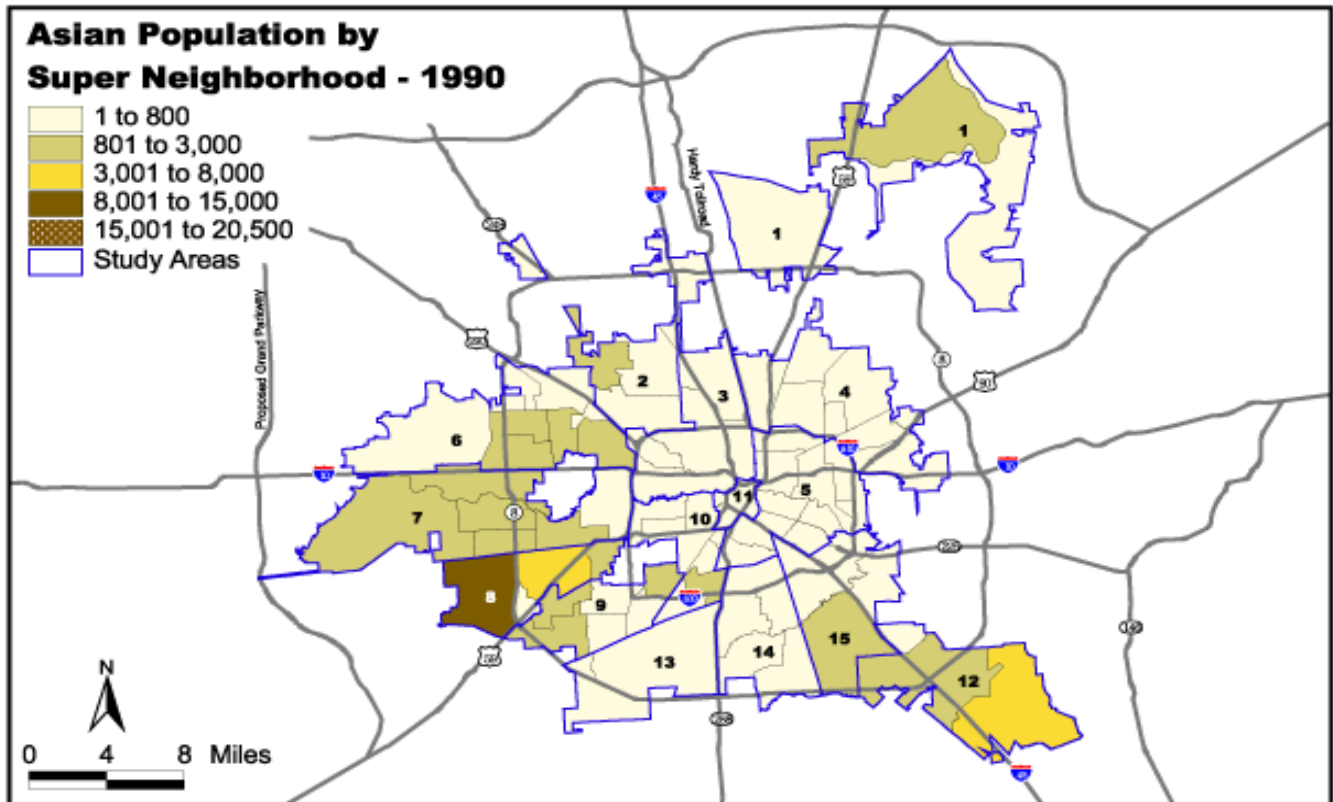
In 2000, Asians accounted for 5% of the total population, a 1% increase from 1990. The Asian population was concentrated in west-southwest and southeast areas of the City including Study Areas 8 and 9.

Between 1990 and 2000, within the ethnic group there was a 51% increase. This increase in Asian population was clustered in two primary areas, which account for more than 2/3rd of the increase:

- *West, South west accounted for slightly more than half of this increase*
- *Southeast (Outside Loop 610 along the Gulf Freeway)*

About 1/3rd of Super Neighborhoods outside Loop 610 saw a decrease in the Asian population, while inside Loop 610, about 1/4th of the Super Neighborhoods saw a decrease in the Asian population.

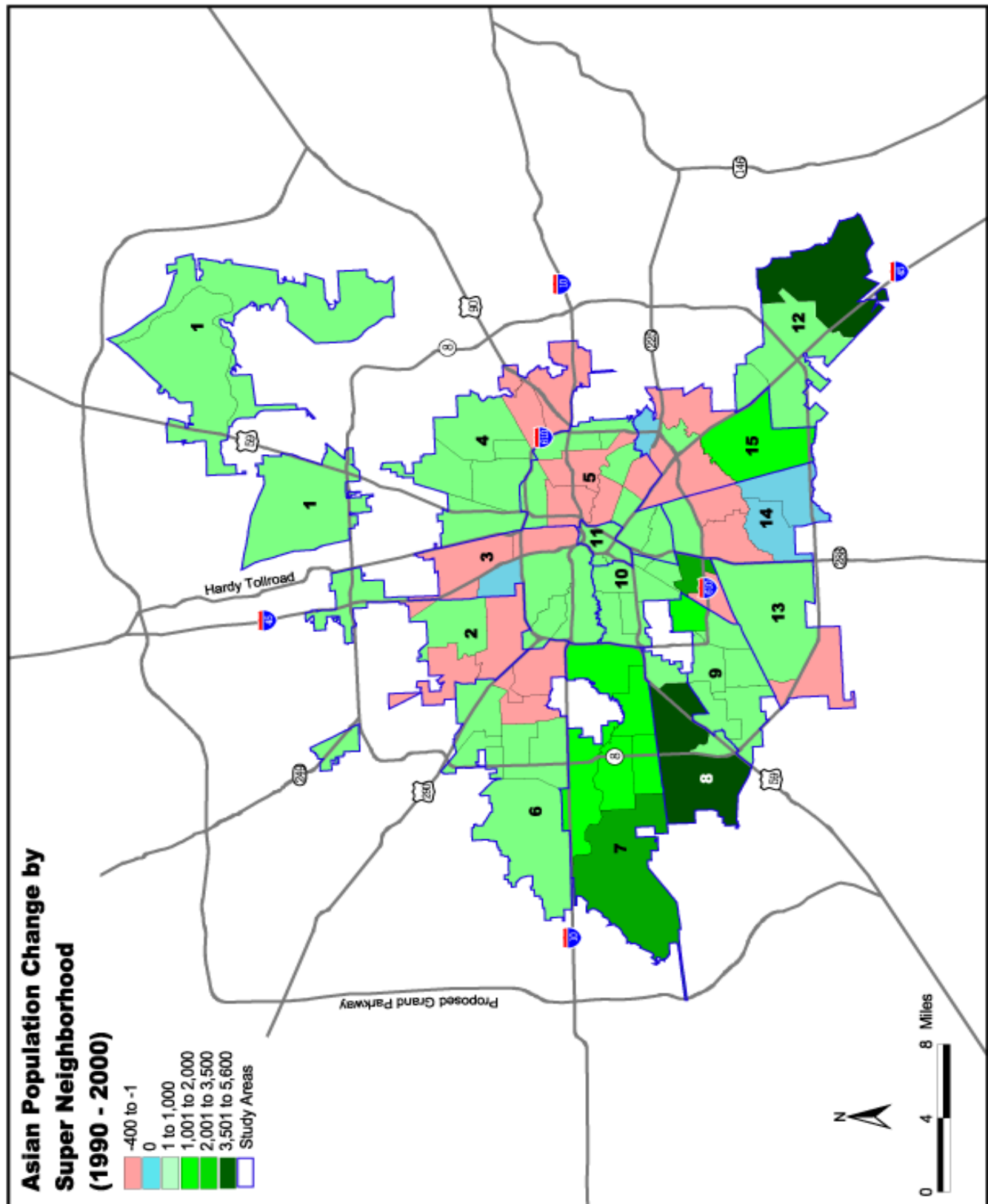
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.15. and Map 3.16.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

City-wide Demographics



Map 3.17.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

City-wide Land Use Changes 1990-2000

Age

For purposes of this analysis, the population has been divided into three age categories: (1) 0-17 years, (2) 18-64 years and (3) 65+ years.

In most of the City, the population under 18 makes up a quarter, or slightly more, of the population. Areas with the highest proportion of the population under 18 years are located in the southwest and east. Areas with the lowest proportion of the population under 18 years are located in a wedge shape extending west from Downtown.

The population 18-64 makes up just less than a third of the citywide population. Areas with more than a third of the population in this category tend to be located in a wedge extending west from Downtown. Areas with just over half the population in this category tend to be located east of Downtown.

Areas with especially high proportions (more than twice the citywide average) of the population over 65 include Super Neighborhoods to the east and south (Meyerland, MacGregor, Sunnyside, Pleasantville, and Clinton Park/Fidelity).

Major Trends

No large shifts in the age categories in 2000.

The number of people in each age group increased as the overall population increased. The population under 18 years is increasing slightly more than the other age groups; this group makes up a slightly higher proportion of the population than it did in 1990.

Changes related to Age 1990-2000

Between 1990 and 2000, changes in the number of people in each age group generally followed that area's changes in population, rising and falling in accordance with the overall population growth or decline.

Table 3.3.
Comparison of Age Groups: 1990 and 2000

Age Group	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total
TOTAL 0-17	455,992	26.7%	536,658	27.4%
TOTAL 18-64	1,108,100	65.0%	1,252,908	64.1%
TOTAL 65+	141,191	8.3%	164,063	8.4%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000

City-wide Demographics

Age 0-17

Of the 88 Super Neighborhoods, 58 gained population in this age group.

- *Super Neighborhoods outside Loop 610 saw the vast majority of the gain*
- *One third of the Super Neighborhoods that saw a decline in this age group were located inside Loop 610.*
- *Greater Heights and Acres Homes lost more young people than any other Super Neighborhoods.*
- *Areas to the southwest gained the most population in this category, consistent with their overall high population growth.*

Age 18-64

Of the 88 Super Neighborhoods, 63 gained population in this working age group.

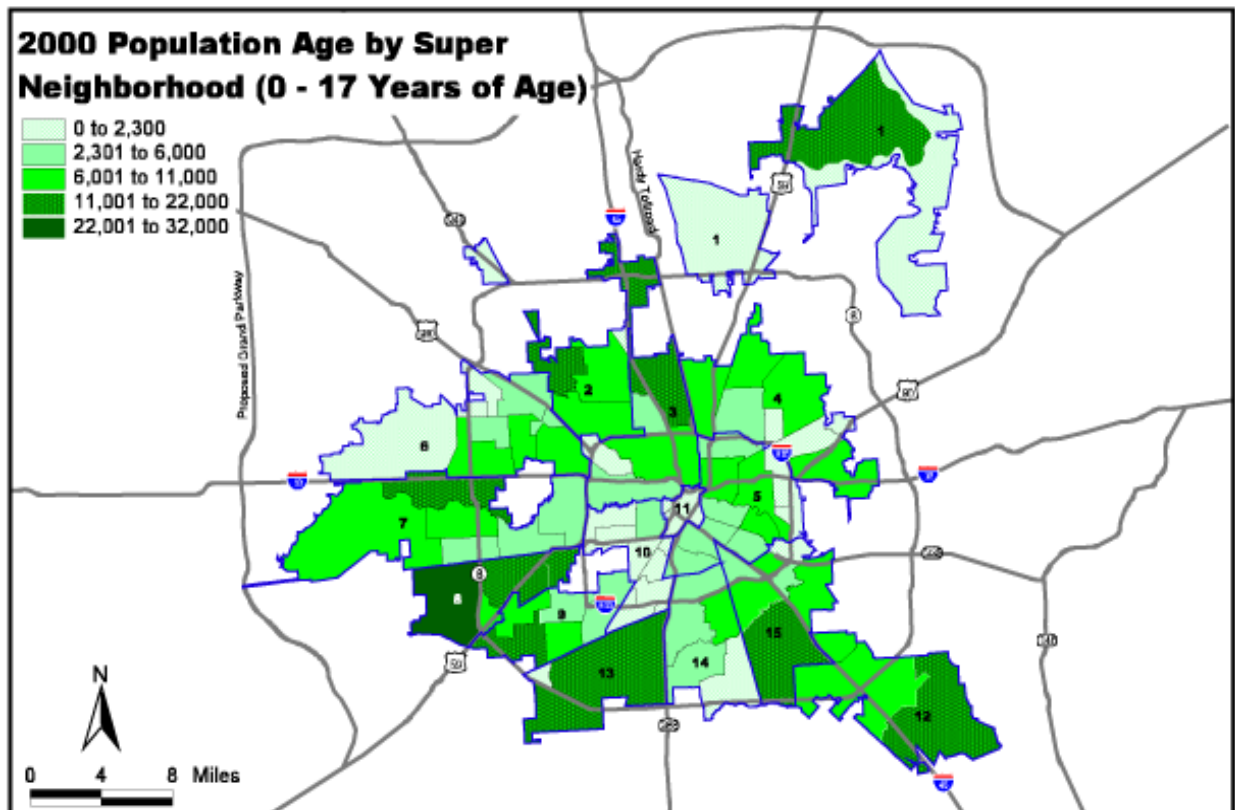
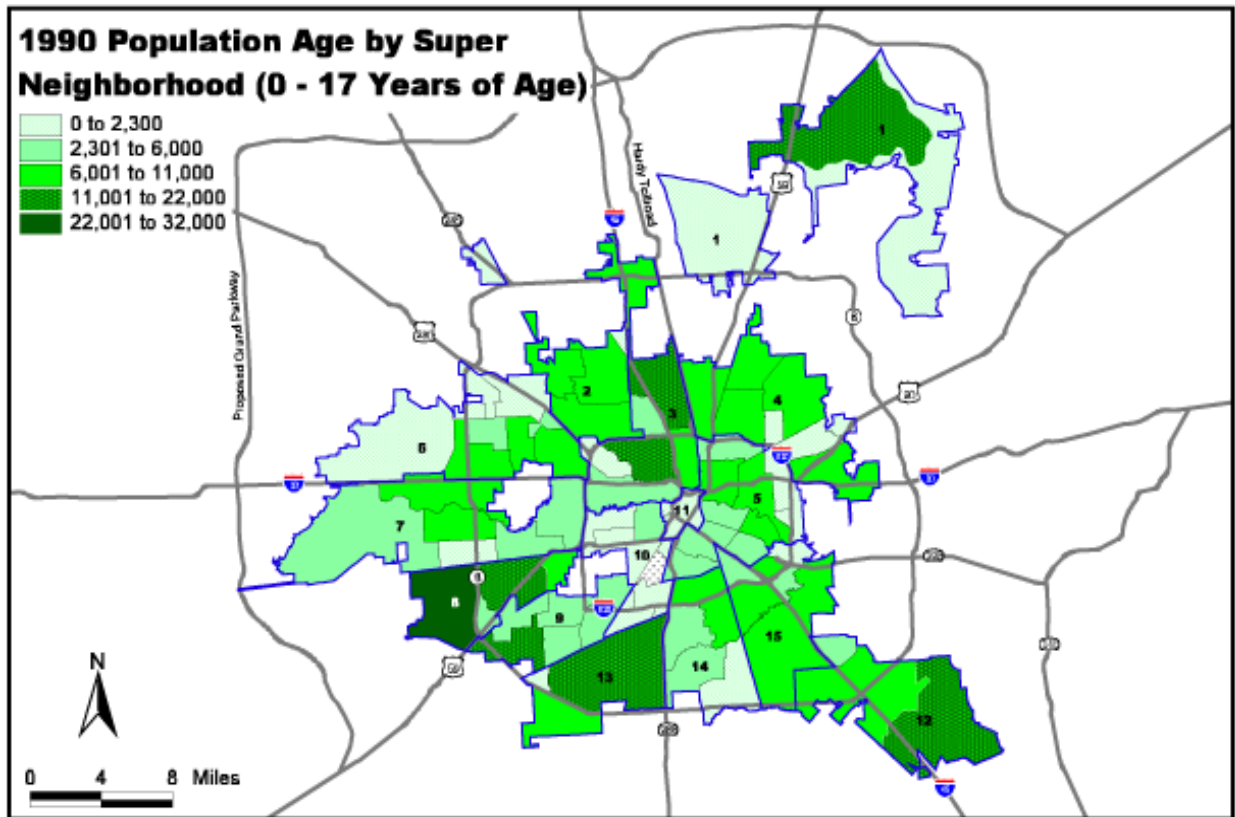
- *Six out of the 10 Super Neighborhoods experiencing the most growth in this age group were located between I-10 (Katy Freeway) and the US-59 (Southwest Freeway) area.*
- *Super Neighborhoods inside Loop 610 saw more than 20% of the total increase.*
- *Greater Fondren lost more people in this age group than any other Super Neighborhood. (Population decreased in all age groups.)*
- *Areas to the southwest saw the largest increases in working age population. Braeburn alone accounted for 14% of the citywide increase in this age group. (Overall, Braeburn accounted for much less of the total population growth, at 3%)*

Age 65+

Of the 88 Super Neighborhoods, 62 saw increases in this age group. Changes were more concentrated geographically than those of other groups. Most of the Super Neighborhoods that saw large increases in the population 65+ are located between I-10 (Katy Freeway) and US-59 (Southwest Freeway).

- *Memorial and Alief Super Neighborhoods saw the largest increases.*
- *Of the areas that saw declines, inside Loop 610 saw almost half of the population loss in this age category. Greater Heights and Third Ward accounted for the largest portion of that loss.*

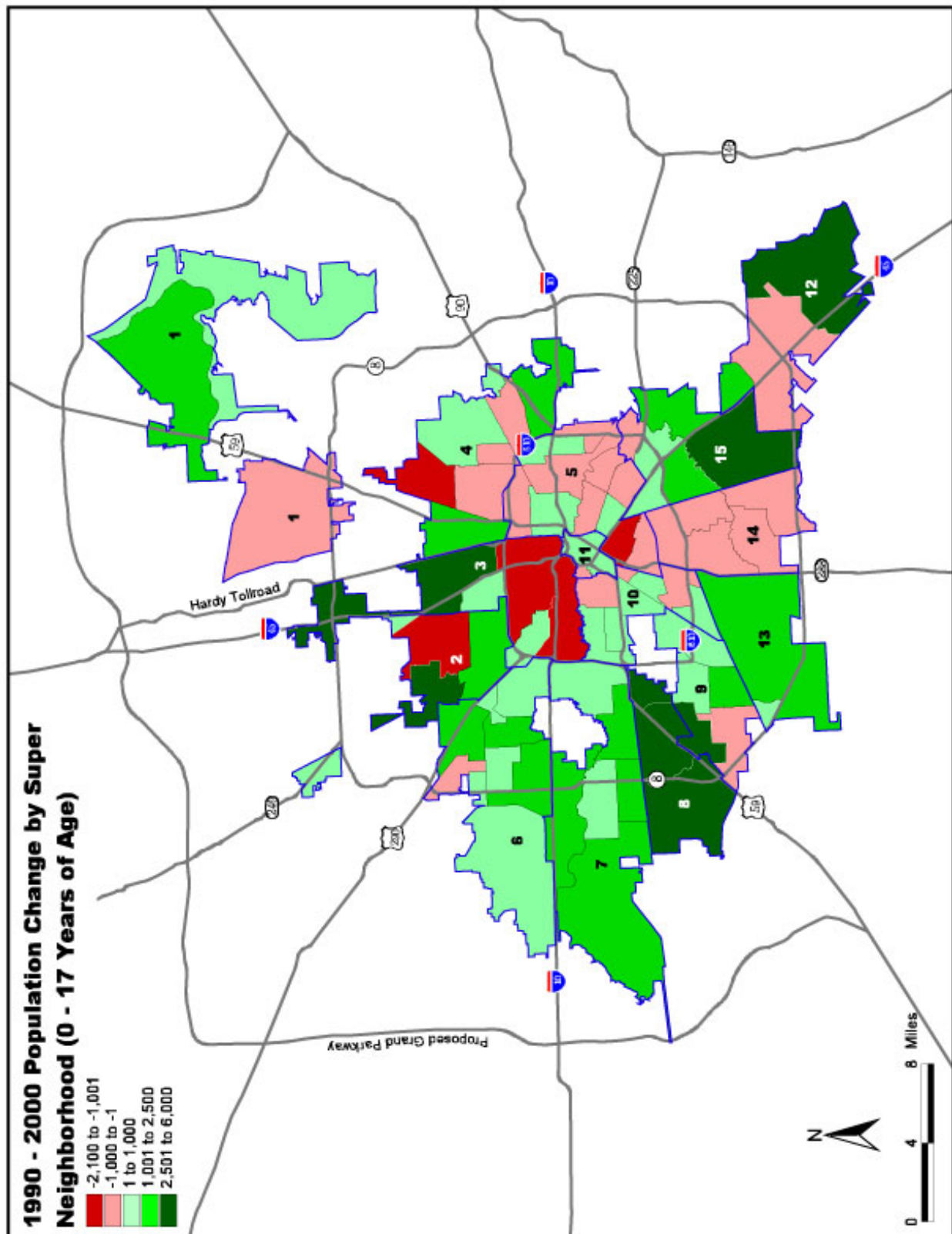
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.18. and Map 3.19.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

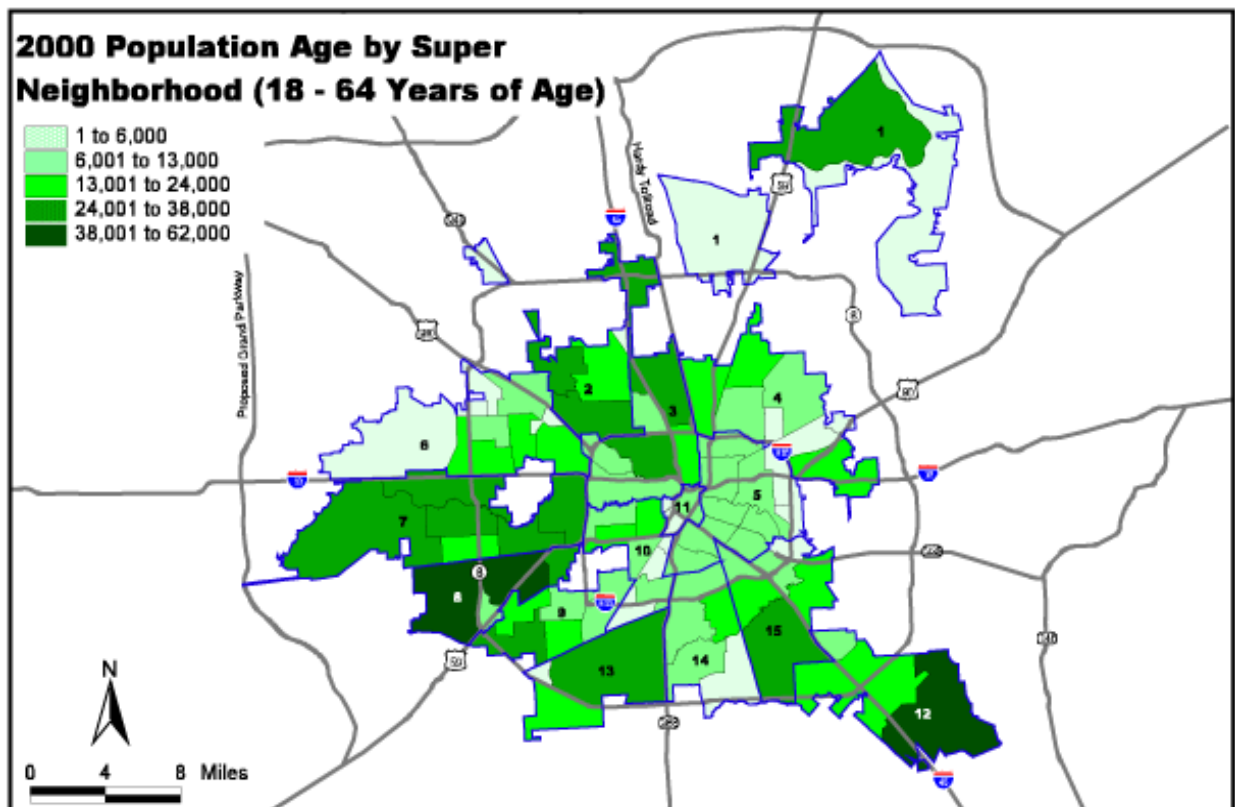
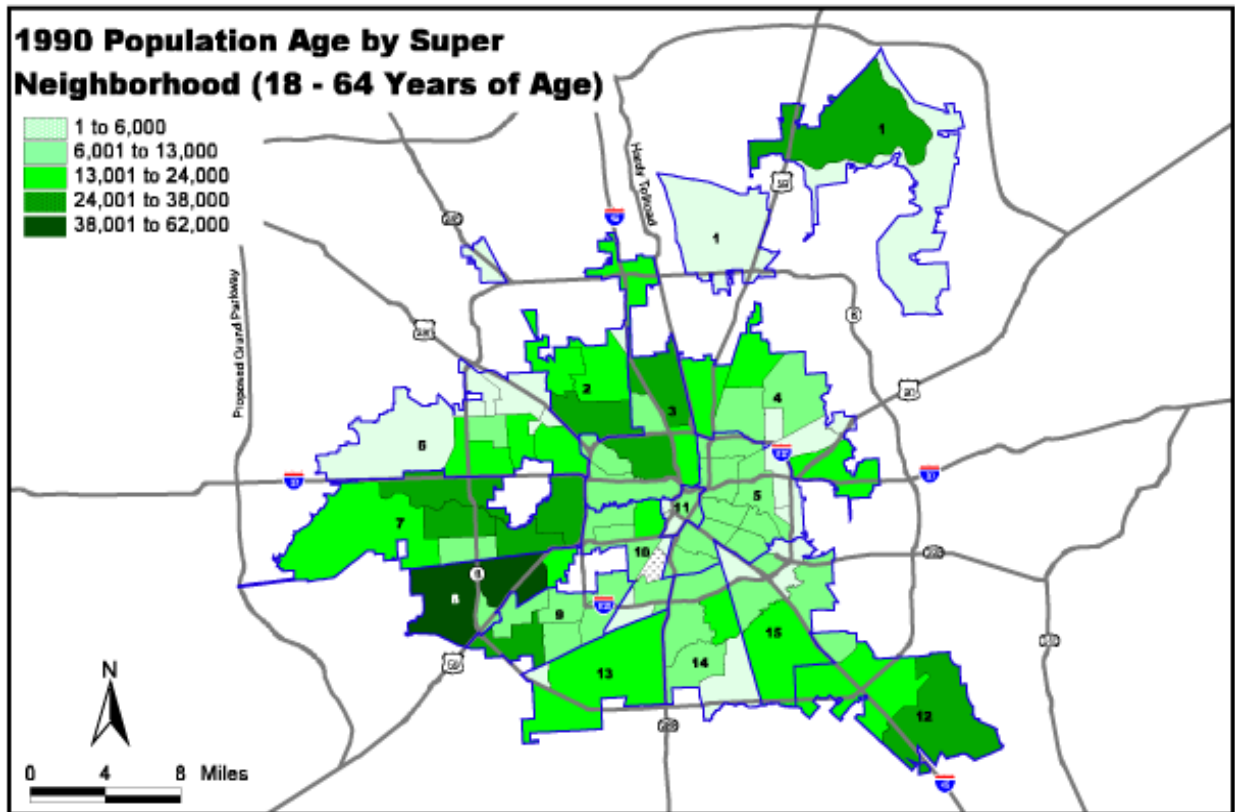
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.20.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

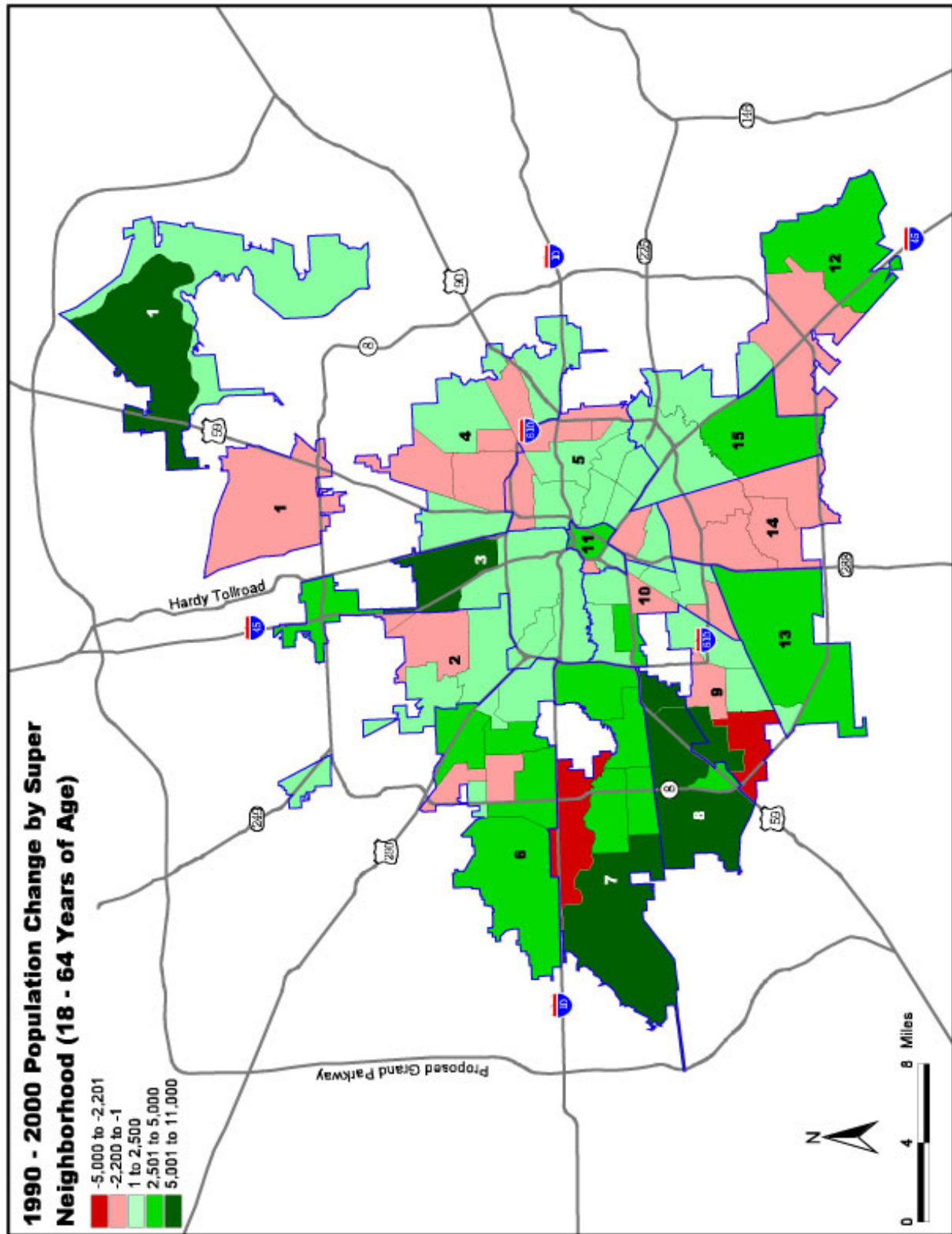
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.21. and Map 3.22.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

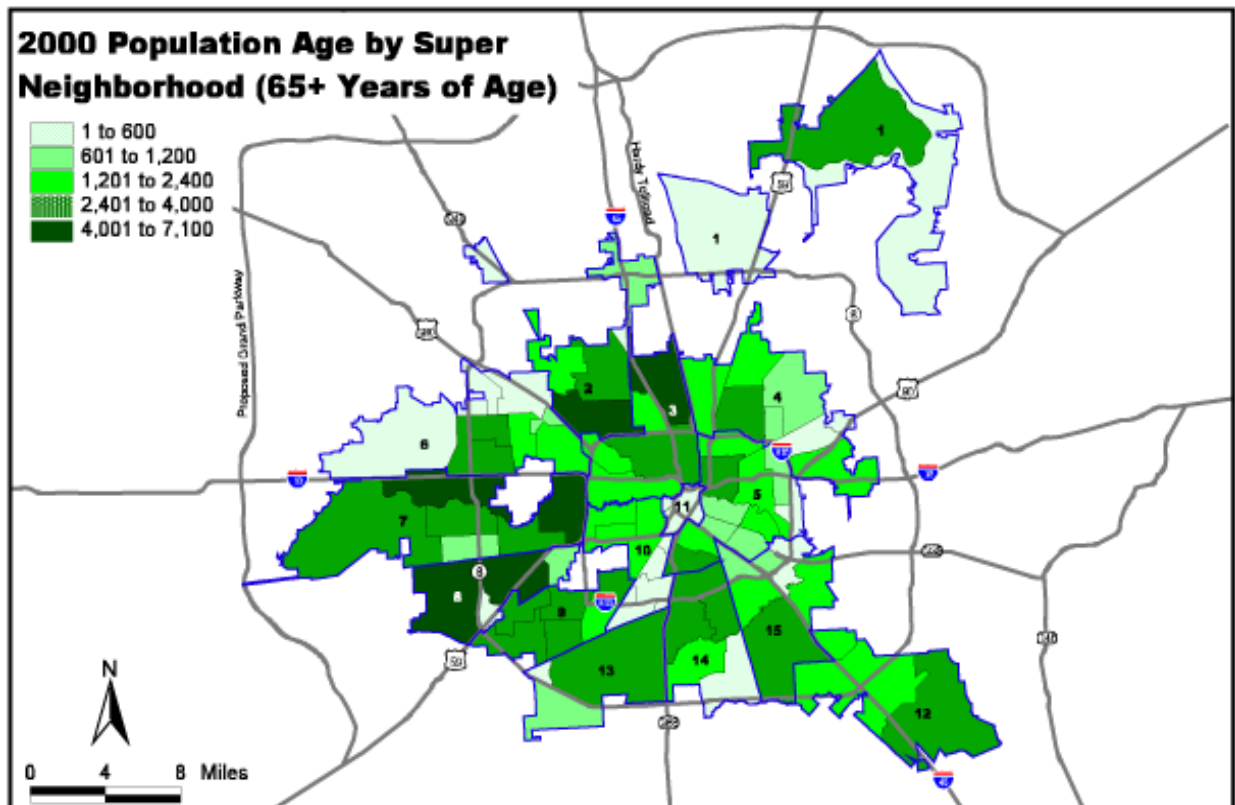
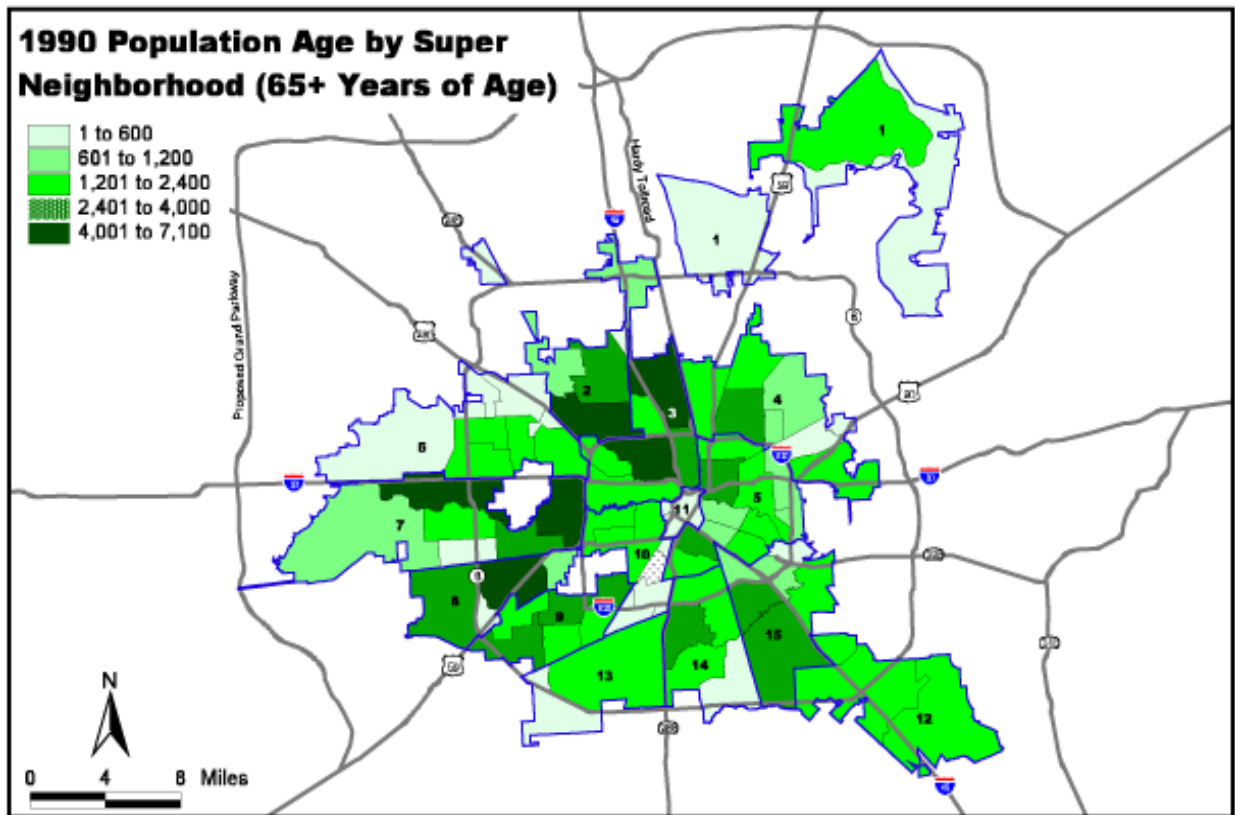
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.23.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

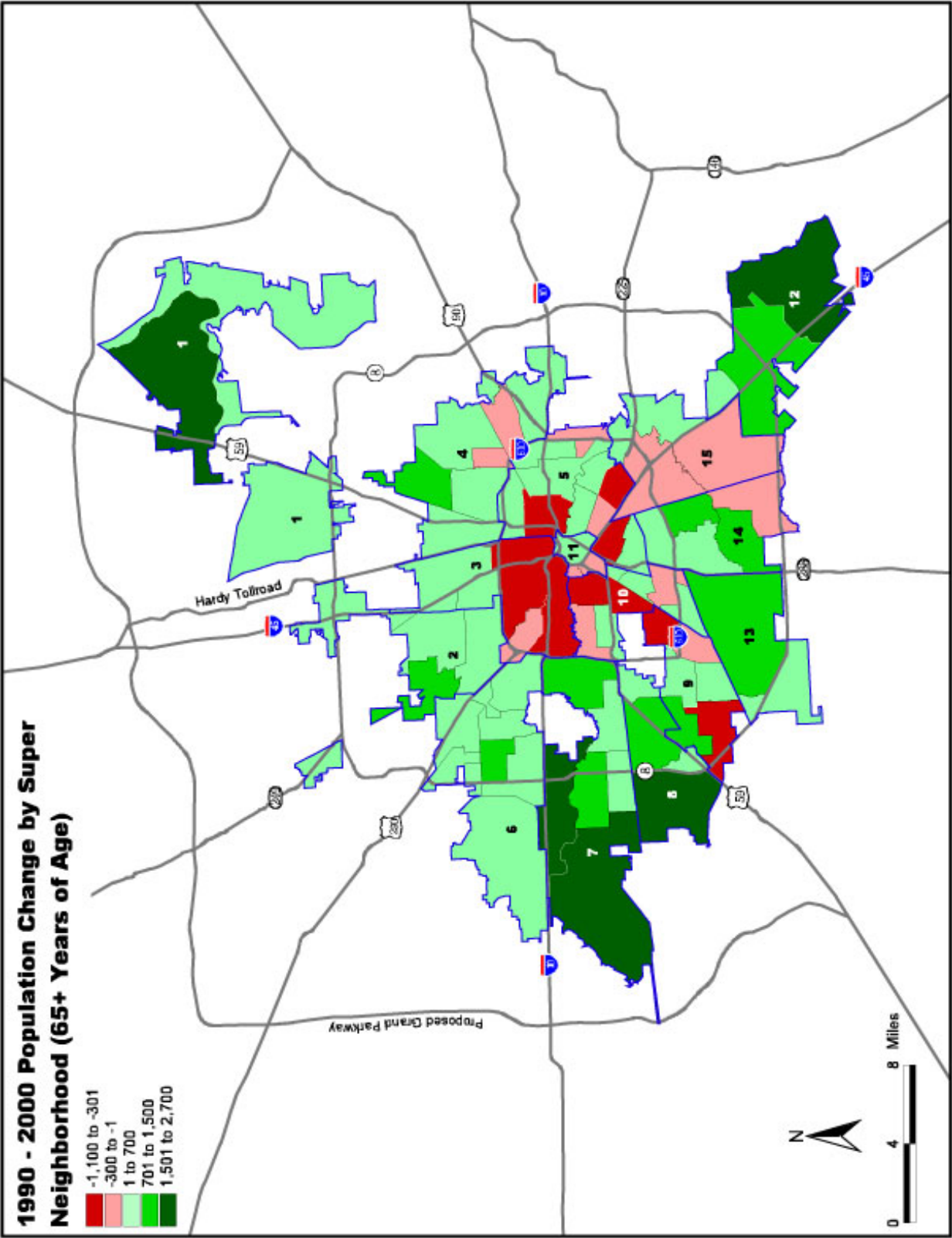
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.24. and Map 3.25.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

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Map 3.26.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

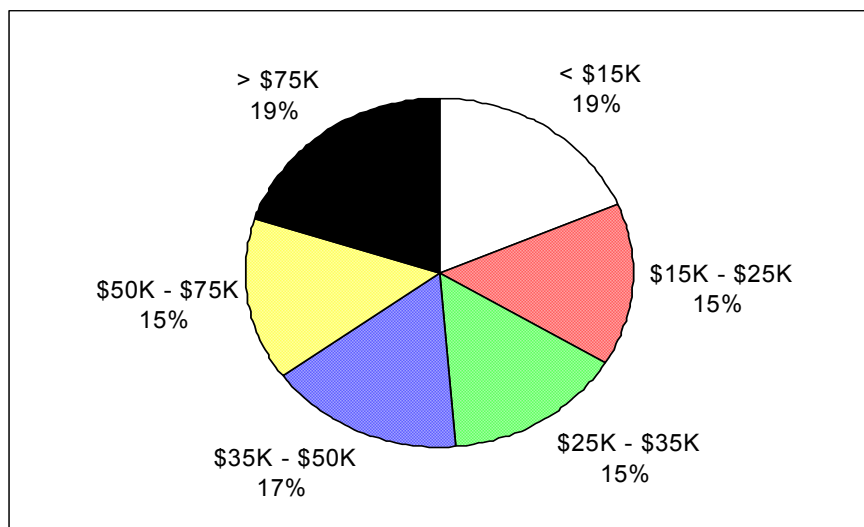
City-wide Land Use by Super Neighborhood

Income

In 2000 the median household income for the City was \$36,616. Areas with household incomes above the citywide median are generally those located west of Downtown; areas with households below the median tend to be located east of Downtown (See Map). (For general discussion purposes, lower incomes are classified as those \$25,000 or lower and higher incomes are classified as

those \$50,000 and higher.) In 2000, higher household incomes tend to be located in a wedge extending west from Downtown including Study Areas 7 and 10, in Kingwood to the northeast (Study Area 1), and Clear Lake to the southeast (Study Area 12). Lower incomes tend to arc east of Downtown in Study Areas 4, 5 and 15.

Figure 3.4.
2000 Household Income



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2000

2000 Income Distribution

In 2000 the proportion of households in each of the six income categories is fairly evenly divided on a citywide basis with slightly more people in the highest and lowest categories. (See Chart) However, there is quite a lot of variation throughout the City. The areas to the Northeast, and west of Downtown (Study Areas 1, 7, 10) have more than a third of their households earning more than \$75,000. In contrast, areas in Study Area 5 and 15 immediately

east and southeast of Downtown show more than a third of their households earning less than \$15,000. The southwest, including Study Area 8, which also has among the largest populations in the City, has more people in each category except > \$75,000. See Appendix C for further information on these statistics.

City-wide Demographics

Major Trends 1990-2000

Income levels have increased across the board

- Median Household Income in Houston increased from \$26,261 in 1990 to \$36,616 in 2000*.
- *Not adjusted to account for inflation. Although inflation has been low in recent years, it generally increases incomes over time.

High concentrations of lower income levels

- A number of Super Neighborhoods east of Downtown, while following the trend of rising incomes, are still home to high concentrations (greater than 50%) of households earning less than \$15,000.

Largest shifts seen at top and bottom of income scale

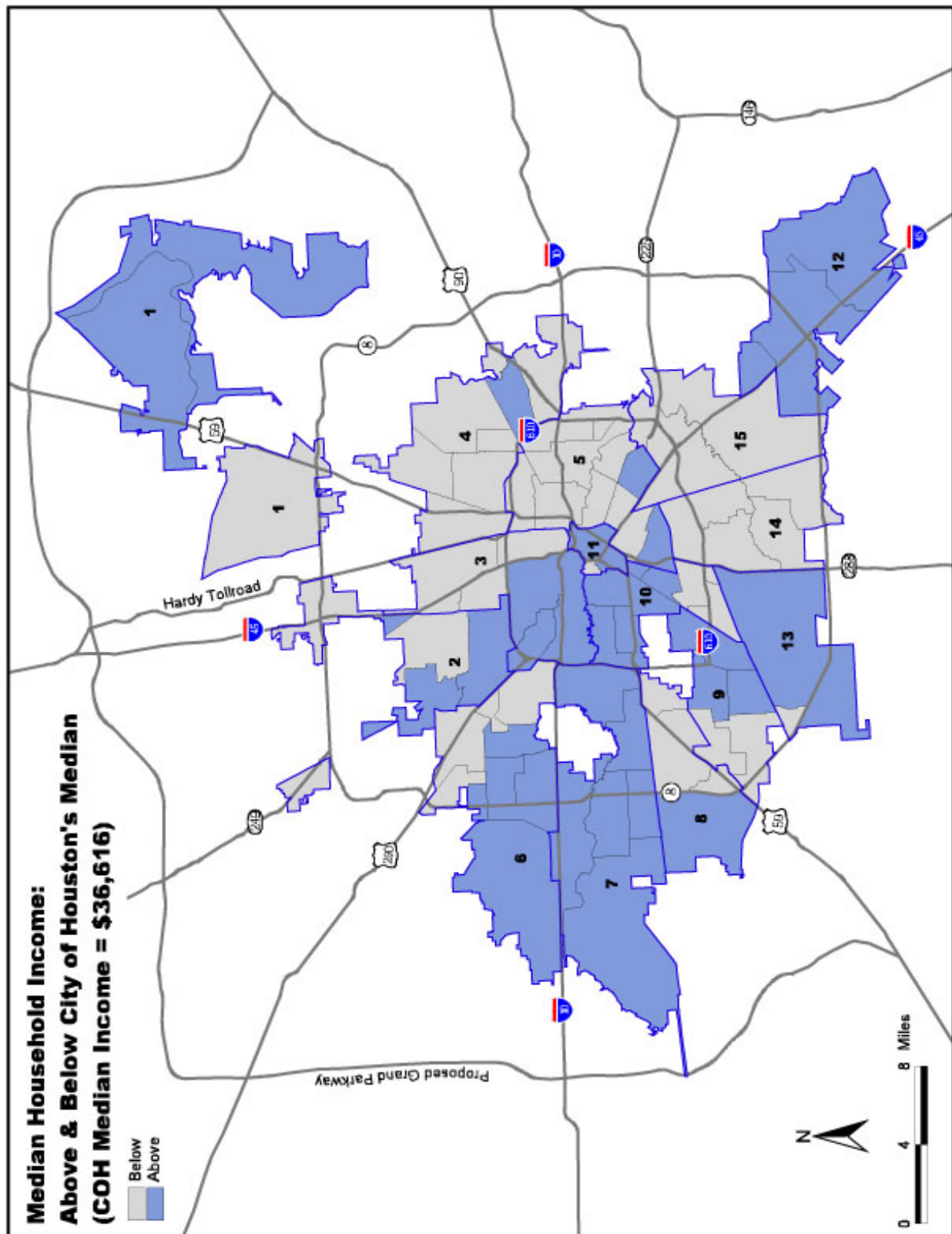
- The proportion of households earning less than \$25,000 decreased significantly.
- The proportion of households earning more than \$75,000 increased significantly.
- The proportion of households in the middle-income ranges stayed largely the same.

Table 3.4.
Income Change 1990-2000

Study Area	1990 \$0-\$25 K	2000 \$0-\$25 K	1990 \$25K-\$50K	2000 \$25K-\$50K	1990 \$50K-\$75K	2000 \$50K-\$75K	1990 \$75K+	2000 \$75K+
1	18.2%	11.5%	25.4%	18.5%	26.1%	21.1%	30.4%	49.7%
2	48.6%	37.2%	32.8%	32.3%	13.1%	16.0%	5.5%	14.4%
3	59.4%	38.9%	28.3%	31.0%	8.1%	15.5%	4.3%	14.5%
4	59.9%	46.9%	29.1%	31.0%	8.6%	14.0%	2.4%	8.1%
5	71.5%	53.5%	21.3%	27.5%	5.1%	10.6%	2.1%	8.4%
6	43.5%	31.7%	35.0%	34.3%	13.8%	17.7%	7.7%	16.3%
7	30.3%	19.7%	32.3%	29.9%	16.0%	18.5%	21.4%	31.8%
8	49.3%	40.0%	33.9%	35.6%	11.1%	13.8%	5.7%	10.5%
9	39.8%	30.3%	28.9%	30.0%	6.5%	15.8%	14.7%	24.0%
10	41.2%	24.4%	30.3%	27.4%	11.4%	16.2%	17.2%	32.1%
11	67.3%	37.7%	24.4%	24.4%	5.0%	15.0%	3.4%	22.8%
12	28.5%	18.6%	36.5%	30.2%	22.2%	21.8%	12.7%	29.5%
13	34.4%	26.2%	44.0%	35.7%	16.2%	21.9%	5.4%	16.1%
14	64.8%	51.4%	26.0%	29.3%	6.6%	11.7%	2.6%	7.5%
15	55.2%	39.8%	32.1%	35.1%	9.1%	14.8%	3.6%	10.4%
CITY	46.4%	33.1%	31.0%	30.9%	12.6%	16.2%	9.9%	19.7%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000

City-wide Demographics



Map 3.27.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

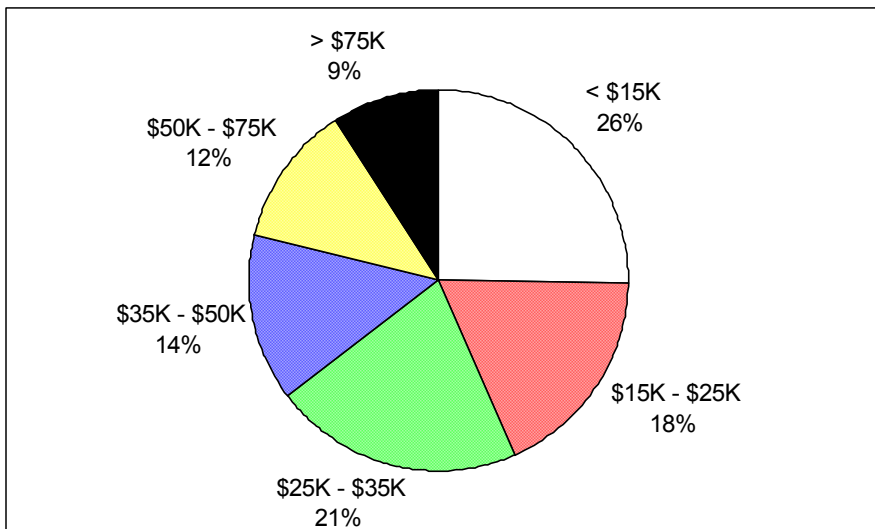
City-wide Demographics

1990 Income Distribution

In 1990 the number of households in each income category was much less evenly distributed than it was in 2000; almost half were below \$25,000 as compared to a third in 2000. As incomes increased over the decade, the

shift is largely recorded as decreases in the proportion of the household population in the income categories below \$35,000, and increases in the proportion of households falling the categories above \$35,000. While the overall shift was between the lowest categories and the highest categories, each level did see changes that affected specific parts of the City.

Figure 3.5.
1990 Household Income



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1990

Because of the extent to which incomes increased, the bottom two categories below \$25,000 have been combined for this analysis.

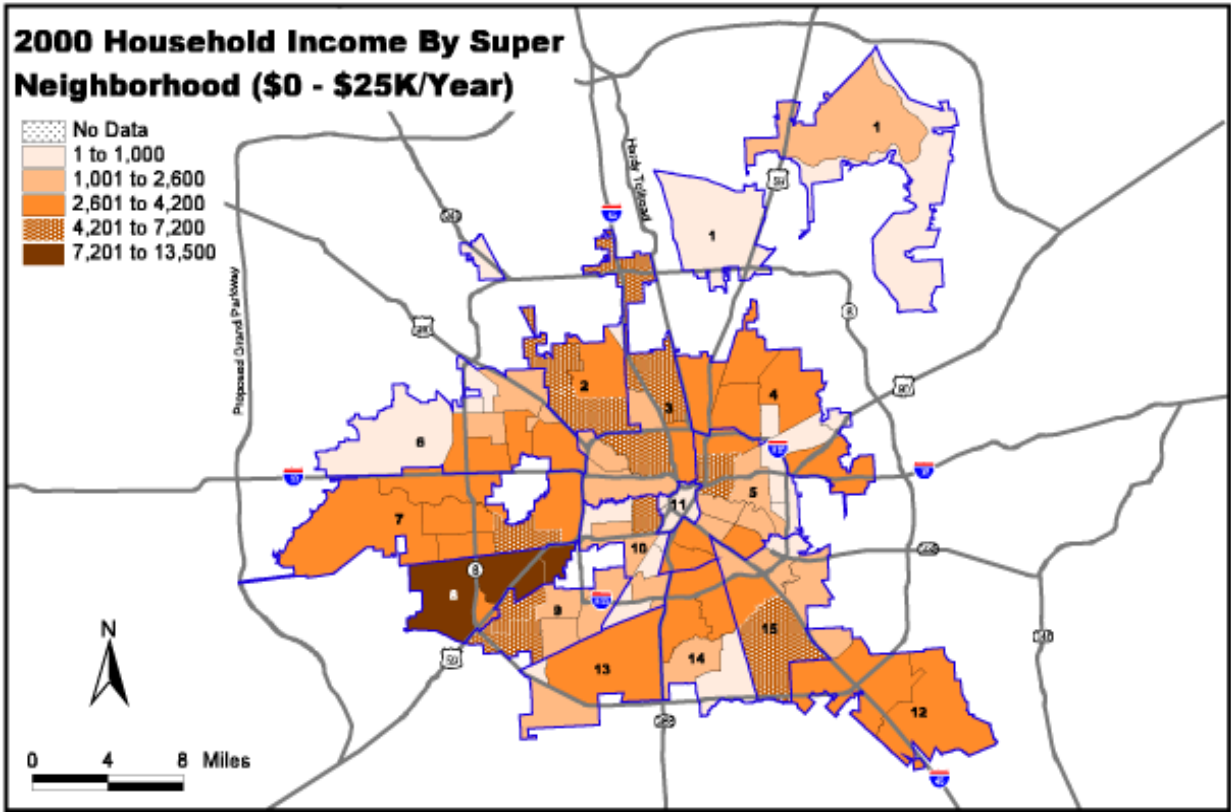
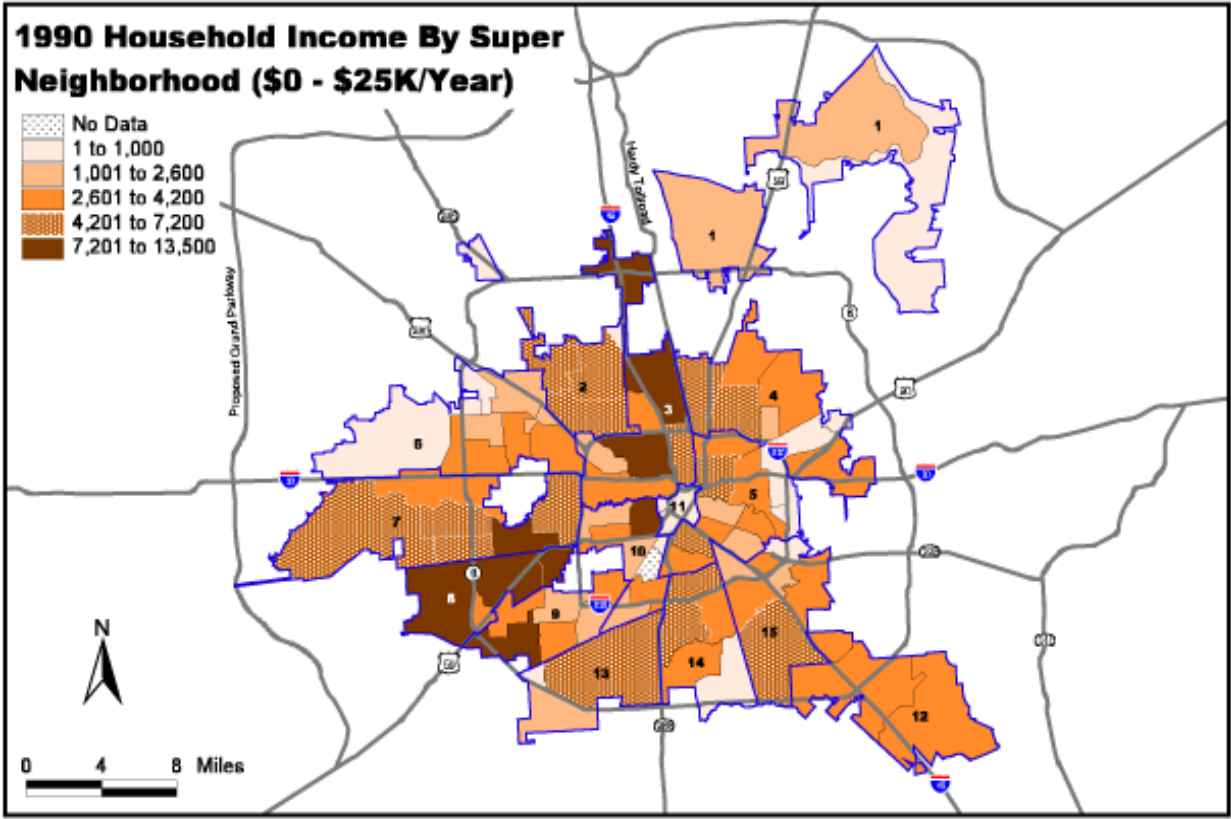
Households earning between \$0-\$25,000

- Between 1990 and 2000 the number of household in this category decreased substantially citywide. Between 1990 and 2000, all but 10 Super Neighborhoods saw income levels increase.
- Of the areas that did see an increase in this category, almost a third of those households were inside Loop 610.
- Braeburn Super Neighborhood alone accounted for almost half of the total increase in this income category.

Households earning between \$25,000-\$50,000

- Between 1990 and 2000 the number of households in this category increased moderately.
- Six Super Neighborhoods had especially high increases in these income groupings, and represent nearly half of the citywide increase in this category: Eldridge, Briar Forest, Westchase, Gulfton, Sharpstown and Braeburn (all are in the southwest part of the City).

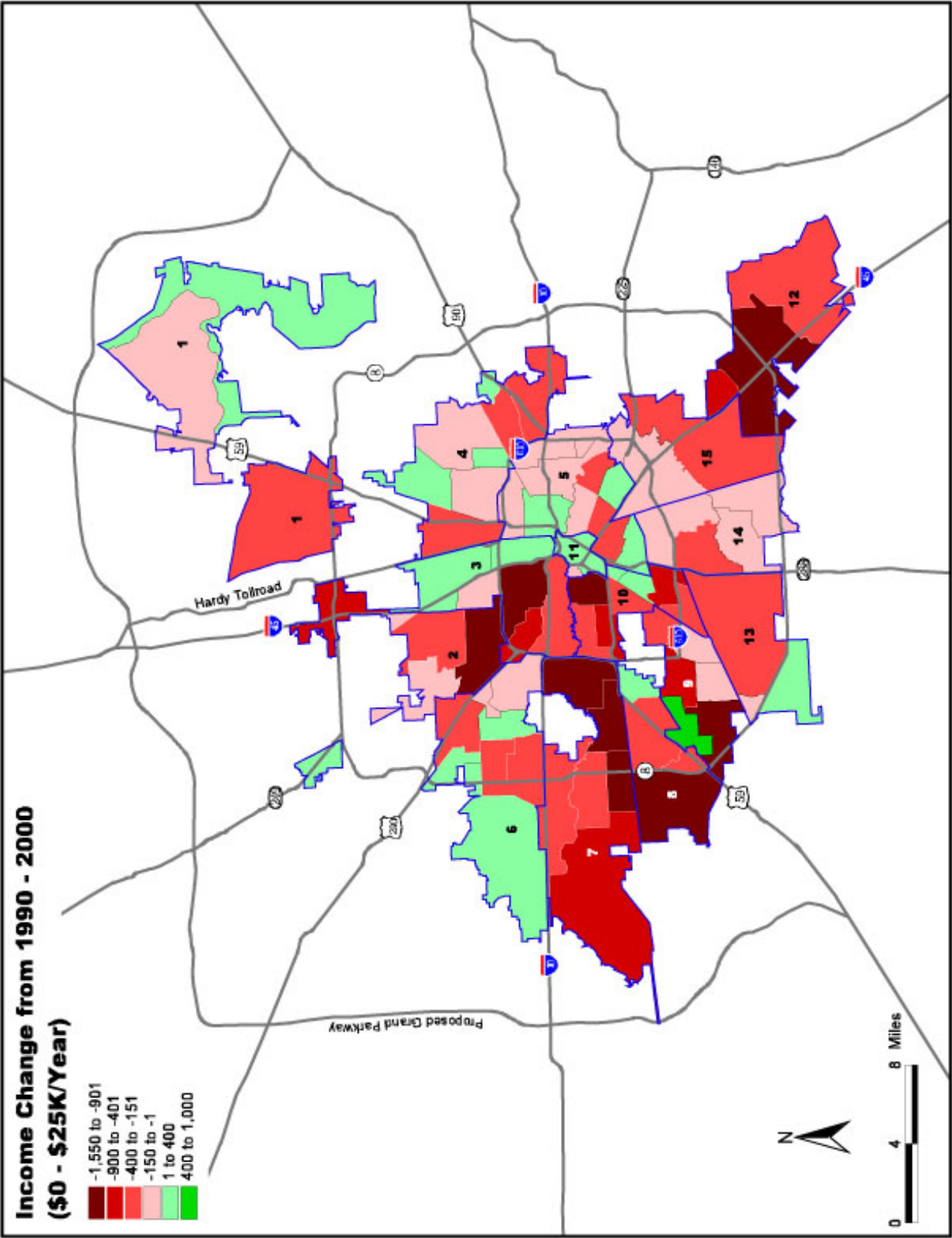
City-wide Demographics



Map 3.28. and Map 3.29.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000

City-wide Demographics



Map 3.30.

Source Data: U. S. Census Bureau 1990-2000